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Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-155 *11 August 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Warns Strikes at U.S. Interests in Israel

TA1108082495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has issued a statement in Beirut warning that the American extradition of Musa Abu-Marzuq to Israel would be tantamount to a declaration of war.

The statement says Hamas would respond by attacking American interests in Israel, not in the United States or anywhere else.

The warning was relayed by the Hamas spokesman in Lebanon to AP Television [not further identified].

'Arafat-Peres Agreement on '7 Issues' Reported

JN1108071695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Aug 95

['Adil al-Za'nun report from Taba, Sinai]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian side led by President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli side led by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have reached agreement on seven issues. The Hebron city problem is still being discussed.

At a joint news conference held in Taba at the conclusion of their meeting late last night, 'Arafat stated that very important issues were discussed pertaining to areas in the West Bank that have been divided in into a, b, and c pertaining to Palestinian cities, villages, and camps as well as settlements, military zones, and other areas. [sentence as heard] 'Arafat said that the problem of redeployment and the Hebron issue was discussed. He said that the zone b issue, pertaining to Palestinian villages, includes important points and has been referred to expert committees.

Answering reporters' questions, 'Arafat asserted that all issues were discussed, including the water issue, within the framework of transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority, as well as the issue of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. He said many solutions have been reached.

Concerning the settlements, 'Arafat said that this issue will require measures which will be adopted jointly with the Israelis.

For his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Peres said that what has been realized is not a comprehensive agreement. He said that this agreement was initialed by Minister Ahmad Quray' for the Palestinians and Uri Savir for the Israelis. He referred to the progress realized in the seven difficult issues. Peres added that not all the problems have been resolved.

Peres will submit the results reached by the two sides to the Israeli cabinet in its next Sunday [13 August] meeting. Peres said the agreement includes the problems of Hebron and the detainees. He said the time element prevented full agreement on Hebron. He emphasized that this issue will eventually be solved.

The two sides have formed a tripartite Palestinian-Israeli-U.S. committee to discuss economic issues, water, and other problems. A Palestinian-Israeli committee will also be formed to deal with the Hebron issue. The Palestinian-Israeli negotiating teams will resume meetings early next week. 'Arafat and Peres will meet again by the end of next week.

In general, we may say that the six meetings held in Taba have produced an agreement on a number of issues, but not all issues; that is, the two sides have come closer to reaching a final agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

Draft Agreement Shows 'Arafat 'Concessions'

MS1108111095 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 11 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Julian Ozanne: "'Arafat Concessions Pave Road Towards Pact"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Considerable and politically sensitive concessions to Israel made by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian leader, paved the way to the substantial breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations in Egypt this week.

As Mr 'Arafat and Mr Shim'on Peres, Israel's foreign minister, were set to initial a deal on some of the most difficult issues blocking agreement yesterday, a draft of the comprehensive agreement under negotiation obtained by the Financial Times reveals the extent of Mr 'Arafat's submission to Israel's demands.

The agreement being negotiated by Israel and the Palestinians is the second phase of the peace process. The first phase, implemented last May, brought Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank enclave of Jericho.

The draft deal involves Palestinian direct elections for an executive and legislative council and, separately, a president/chairman of the council; a two-phase Israeli troop redeployment from Palestinian areas in the West Bank — one before elections and a second in three stages after elections; and the transfer from Israeli to Palestinian hands of scores of civilian powers, in such fields as electricity, transport and indirect taxation.

The most important aspect of this second phase of the peace process is the assumption by Palestinians of

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control over the Israeli-occupied land in the West Bank which they see as an intrinsic part of their homeland.

Palestinian negotiators have spent months seeking a clear definition of how much of the West Bank land will come under Palestinian control and when Israel will redeploy from the areas. Both sides agreed that six of the seven main Palestinian towns and the overwhelming majority of Arab villages would be handed over to the Palestinians before the elections, expected four months after the signing of the accord.

Both sides also agreed that Israeli West Bank settlements, Arab East Jerusalem and military installations would remain under full Israeli control until a final settlement, due by May 1999.

The biggest difficulty has been the sparsely populated rural areas which account for about two thirds of the West Bank. In the past few days Mr 'Arafat, against the strong advice of his negotiators, has surrendered the Palestinian position, leaving Israel a free hand to decide what land it will hand over and when, up to July 1997. That is when Israel will complete its redeployment from all Parts of the West Bank except Arab East Jerusalem, Jewish settlements and military installations.

Mr 'Arafat's concession will give Palestinians little ability to govern the West Bank as a single territorial unit. Israel will control key functions such as internal security, planning and transport throughout most of the West Bank until July 1997. Even after July 1997 Israel will maintain full control over defence against external threats, the Egyptian and Jordanian borders and responsibility for security of Israelis and settlements.

The draft agreement also reveals the extent to which Israel is determined to restrict the legislative independence of the elected Palestinian Council. In a number of clauses, which appear in the draft paper as Israeli positions not yet agreed by the Palestinians, Israel is to have virtual veto power over all legislation promulgated by the council. Any legislation which must first pass through a joint Israeli-Palestinian civil affairs committee before entering into law. Israel will be able to block passage of legislation which it deems touches Israeli security, "other significant Israeli interests" or which could cause "irreparable damage or harm".

Israel's insistence on a clear line of succession to Mr 'Arafat is also evident in the draft agreement. As a concession to Mr 'Arafat's campaign for recognition of his position as self-declared "President" of the Palestinian people, a demand resisted so far by Israel because of its suggestion of statehood, the Palestinian leader will, after elections, be known as "president/chairman" of the council.

But, for the first time in his long political career, he is to have an official deputy elected by the council who will be known as vice president/chairman and who will take over on the "death, resignation or permanent incapacity" of the president/chairman.

The potentially explosive effect of such a move on what many regard as Mr 'Arafat's authoritarian politics is clear from Mr 'Arafat's insistence in the draft agreement that the vice president/chairman be known by the more ambiguous Arabic honorific of Mutahadith, or spokesman.

Mr 'Arafat will not have the power to dissolve the council and he will be accountable to it. He will appoint an executive, 80 per cent of which must be elected council members. The council will be able to remove members of the executive by passing votes of no confidence against them.

The draft document also makes clear that the council is to have no powers or responsibilities over foreign and diplomatic affairs, including the establishment of embassies overseas or permitting the opening of foreign diplomatic missions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Article 5, which deals with the size of the Palestinian Council, it is clear both sides remain deadlocked. The Palestinians want a council of 100 directly elected representatives while Israel wants to limit it to the size of an executive authority. An Israeli official said Israel meant about 35 members.

This issue has not been resolved between Mr 'Arafat and Mr Peres and is expected only to be dealt with at a last minute summit between Mr 'Arafat and Mr Rabin hours before a formal signing ceremony.

Throughout the document it is clear that Israel is resisting Palestinian demands that the language of the agreement specifically include Arab East Jerusalem as being under any Palestinian jurisdiction.

Opponents of Talks To Fight Further 'Concessions'

MM1108151895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Palestinian leaderships opposed to the Oslo and Cairo agreements have unanimously agreed on the necessity to strip of legitimacy any future Palestinian-Israeli agreement containing further concessions as regards Palestinian rights and Palestinian constants.

These leaderships, which represent the various forces and factions opposed to the Oslo agreement, and members from the Fatah Central Committee have stressed to

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AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT their determination to cut off the Palestinian leadership's way and to prevent it from concluding a new agreement with Israel that is being crystallized in Egyptian Taba. Especially as this agreement involves more concessions than those offered by the Palestinian Authority since the Oslo agreement.

Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that the arrangements being agreed in Taba (between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres) will lead to a fragmenting of the West Bank's territorial unity and turn its lands into protectorates under Israeli sovereignty and the occupation forces' control.

He added that the new draft agreement involves great dangers vis-a-vis vital issues, since Israel insists on continuing to control water sources. He pointed out that the Palestinian side in the negotiations has agreed to that, only requesting that the Palestinians' share of Palestinian national waters be increased and improved.

Khalid stressed the rejectionist Palestinian leaderships' determination to hold extensive and expanded meetings with the largest possible number of PLO Executive Committee members in order to confront the dangers of this new draft, which involves numerous concessions that cannot be accepted.

Paper Notes 'Contradictory Statements' on Talks

TA1008145995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Aug 95 p 13

[Editorial: "The Talks and Palestinian Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli talks are continuing on various levels, including the meetings between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Perhaps among the most important statements and assessments made on the results of these talks were those attributed to a Palestinian source with regard to reaching understanding over the issue of Israeli redeployment in the West Bank, although these statements were not officially confirmed. That makes evaluation of the talks' status extremely difficult in light of the contradictory statements, especially by the Israeli side, in terms of what has been achieved in the talks so far.

Those statements and assessments indicate that supervision of security on the largest possible area of West Bank lands constitutes the main bone of contention between the two sides. One should add to this other issues also, some of which have become chronic, such as disagreement over the participation of Jerusalemite Palestinians in the elections, both as candidates and voters. Other points of contention were placed on the talks' agenda only in the last few months and weeks, such as the issue of supervision over the sources of water and electricity.

Following every round of talks it has been stressed, particularly by the Israeli side, that progress was achieved in one or more spheres. This is exactly what happened in the wake of the Taba meetings of yesterday and the day before, although the sphere was not specified. This places the Palestinian observer and citizen in a state of permanent perplexity about what has actually been achieved in the talks, the issues to which no satisfactory solution have been found, and those that are still under discussion between the two sides.

It is noteworthy that the Israeli side has now succeeded in imposing its own concept — not only that dates are not sacred but that dates should not be set at all for reaching an agreement. The latest Israeli statements made in this regard were those by the Israeli foreign minister himself, who said that even if there is a two-month delay "that will not be a terrible thing." One should bear in mind that the failure to reach agreement might have grave consequences for the peace process, especially since many extremist and settler quarters in Israel are mobilizing their forces in a bid to halt the peace process and prevent implementation of the second stage of the Oslo declaration at any price.

Hence, the talks are not an end in themselves. A real shift in the Israeli positions is required that will lead to implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in letter and spirit. This should be done in a way compatible with the resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the realization of the Palestinian people's just and legitimate demands, foremost of all their sovereignty and supervision over their land and the sources of their water and natural wealth, without the attempt to circumvent or infringe on those demands and rights.

Fatah Committee Urges Need To Release Prisoners

JN1008203595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement's Higher Committee has stressed that any agreement with Israel on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles should include a timetable on releasing all male and female Palestinian prisoners from the Israeli occupation jails without any conditions or exceptions.

In a statement issued today, the Committee said it submitted a working paper to the Palestinian negotiating delegation on the situation of the Palestinian and Arab prisoners in the Israeli occupation jails.

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PA Protests Decision To Close Cave of Patriarchs

TA1108085795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians are protesting the defense establishment's intention to close the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron for five days beginning at the end of next week.

Officials at the Waqf in Hebron told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the security authorities announced that the cave would be closed in order to reassess security measures at the site. The Muslim Waqf said that closing the cave impinges on their freedom of worship.

Several senior officials in the Palestinian Authority [PA] also condemned the defense establishment's intention to temporarily close the cave. They said that this step would spoil the atmosphere of the peace process.

Police Arrest 17 Hamas Activists in Gaza Strip

TA1008170695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police in Gaza arrested 17 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists today. Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip did not rule out a connection between today's arrests and the reports of a planned terrorist attack which led to the imposition of a closure on the Arab residents of the Gaza Strip.

Mayor Proposes Hebron's Jews Move to Qiryat Arba'

TA1108061695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah said that the residents of Hebron congratulate PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for not backing down on the Hebron issue and insisting that on an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the city. Al-Natshah proposes that the Jewish families in Hebron move to Qiryat Arba' with the Palestinian Police being left responsible for securing the access roads to the holy sites in Hebron. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] Palestinian sources assessed that the partial agreement reached in Taba last night will add some momentum to the negotiations on the interim accord and facilitate progress toward signing the agreement. One of the main problems still unresolved is the Hebron issue. Local residents followed the Taba talks yesterday evening but as the talks dragged into the night, most people went to bed. Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah followed the talks last night and we received his initial reaction several minutes ago.

[Al-Natshah, in English] This gives Mr. 'Arafat more confidence from the people here. We are sure that he will not retreat from his demand. The people will stand with him and they are happy that he will not retreat from this position.

[Ben-Menahem translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Al-Natshah said this demand was backed by the Oslo accords which stipulate that the IDF redeployment must encompass all West Bank towns, including Hebron. Al-Natshah presented a proposal of his own to resolve the issue.

[Al-Natshah, in English] This is my idea that they can move to Qiryat Arba' and the Palestinian Police will assure their safe visit to the holy places in the city.

[Ben-Menahem translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] This morning, we will probably receive more reactions from Palestinian officials and keep you updated. [end recording]

PFLP-GC Security Unearths 'Subversive' Network

JN1108004095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

The PFLP-GC's security agencies have recently unearthed a subversive and espionage network linked to the Zionist Mosad and 'Arafat's security agencies. The PFLP-GC's security agencies have also arrested Musa Muhammad Hasan 'Uruq, mastermind of this network. This network has forged documents carrying the name of the PFLP-GC and tried to sabotage its relations with Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen, and Sudan through leaking groundless and fabricated reports about the PFLP-GC's activities against these countries. Another assignment of the network was to spy on the PFLP-GC's activities and keep its leaders under watch.

The responsible source went on to say: While it announces this to the Arab and Palestinian public opinion at this serious juncture of the Arab Palestinian cause, the PFLP-GC cautions 'Arafat's security organs against such methods and against cooperation with the Zionist Mosad against the factions opposed to the Oslo agreement. The PFLP-GC promises that it will publicize all the results of the current interrogation of the espionage and subversive network, particularly of the network's mastermind Musa Muhammad Hasan 'Uruq.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC.

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PA Denies Repatriation Agreement With Libya

NC1008170195 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taba, Egypt, Aug 10 (AFP) — The Palestinian Authority [PA] denied Thursday [10 August] it was involved in a reported agreement with Libya to repatriate 40,000 Palestinians.

"Any deportation of Palestinians bothers us and this was not made in coordination with the Palestinian Authority," PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman told AFP.

Marwan Kanafani said he was unaware of the agreement reported by Libyan police under which 600 Palestinians had been expelled on Wednesday and Thursday. But in Gaza City, a PLO official said 'Arafat had dispatched a representative to Cairo to handle the issue. None of the Palestinians deportees had arrived in the Gaza Strip by Thursday evening.

At the Rafah border post with Egypt, passport department chief Major Mu'awiyah Al-Rayyis told AFP: "No one has arrived either yesterday or today. "We have not received any orders to let them in. We have not be given any names," he said. [sentence as received]

An Israeli foreign ministry official said he was checking the report from Libya that the Jewish state as well as Egypt were involved in the deal.

Return of Palestinians Continues

NC1008145095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1317 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sallum, 10 Aug (MENA)—Four buses carrying 200 Palestinians returning to the Palestinian self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho arrived at the al-Sallum crossing point [on the Libyan-Egyptian border] today. Yesterday 150 other Palestinians passed through the al-Sallum point.

The passage of Palestinians through the al-Sallum border point on their way to Gaza will continue throughout next week.

Palestinians are returning to their country from Libya in line with an agreement among the Libyan, Palestinian, Egyptian, and Israeli authorities.

Some 30,000 Palestinians used to live in Libya.

Iraq Rejects Students From Self-Rule Areas

TA1008151195 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Aug 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi authorities have officially informed Mr. 'Azzam al-Ahmad, the Palestinian ambassador in Iraq, that the Iraqi Government is refraining from accepting the applications of Palestinian students wishing to study in Iraqi universities. 'Umar al-Khatib, the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman, who announced this, said that the reason for terminating the scholarship grants, which number about 300, is Iraq's rejection of the Oslo accord.

'Umar al-Khatib added that the students included in the grants are those living in the self-rule areas and the West Bank only and that the decision does not include Palestinian students living outside these areas.

The source [as published] affirmed that the Palestinian ambassador in Iraq is still trying to dissuade the Iraqi Government from carrying out this decision in view of its grave consequences on the future of Palestinian-Iraqi relations and its impact on the educational situation of West Bank and Gaza Strip students.

Al-Husayni, U.S. Consul General Hold Talks

JN1008151195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file [in the Palestinian Authority], received the U.S. Consul General [Edward] Abington at Orient House this morning. Al-Husayni reviewed the latest political developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations, settlers' encroachments on the Orient House, and U.S. financial aid to the National Authority.

The U.S. consul general said that he told Israeli officials on several occasions that these encroachments are serious and should be halted.

The two sides also discussed the U.S. immigration law and the granting of entry and residence visas to Palestinians who were earlier accused of carrying out political activities since the inception of occupation. Al-Husayni said it is necessary to intercede with the U.S. Government swiftly to change these laws.

Al-Husayni Comments on Talks

JN1008170895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1124 GMT 10 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file for the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz in the studio on 10 August—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Good afternoon.

[Al-Husayni] Good afternoon.

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[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Faysal, what did you tell the U.S. consul in Jerusalem when you met him today?

[Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, the U.S. consul made good and appropriate statements regarding the settlers' activities and attempts to trespass at Orient House and my personal residence. I seized the opportunity at this meeting to express my appreciation for the position he has taken in this regard. It is to be recalled that this position on the part of the U.S. consul has drawn criticism from some Israeli and even U.S. sides. The talks addressed the current state of affairs and the provocations against Orient House and other Palestinian institutions. Nonetheless, the most important topic discussed in the meeting concerns the bill submitted to the Congress, which calls for reducing or halting aid to Jerusalem, and also for banning meetings involving U.S. officials in East Jerusalem. I have informed the U.S. consul of the Palestinian position, which is opposed to this lopsided logic.

[Al-Qazzaz] Has the United States taken steps to halt the settlers' trespasses against Orient House in particular?

[Al-Husayni] I can say that the consul's position and the views he relayed to his government are all positive. However, it seems that the issue needs more than sending cables or making statements.

[Al-Qazzaz] Yesterday, Israeli rightists, and specifically rightist leader Netanyahu, staged a festival in Jerusalem. What do you have to say about what the Israeli right wing is doing against Jerusalem in general, and against Orient House in particular?

[Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, I would like to tell the Israeli right wing, which is currently adopting a hard line position, that Orient House began its activities during the rule of the Likud, which is a rightist party. The Israeli rightists are well aware that the international equation and the peace process require that the party that is in power in Israel accept the current status quo in Jerusalem. Consequently, what they are doing now are attempts at oneupmanship to promote their election prospects. But when the moment of truth comes, they will realize that this international equation, which is not of our own or their own making, is to be accepted. The status of Jerusalem and Orient House will remain unchanged, God willing, until a Palestinian state is established.

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Faysal al-Husayni: The Palestinians are grumbling about the subversive activities carried out by settlers.

[Al-Husayni] Having failed in their attempts to provoke us, they began to provoke citizens. They have taken to the streets and begun to vandalize the citizens' property. We have raised this issue with many quarters, including Israelis. We feel that the settlers' activities have been reduced, but not completely. We cannot say that the problem has been resolved.

[Al-Qazzaz] Can we say that the settlers' activities are aimed at sabotaging the peace process? Do you think that the Israeli Government is capable of curbing the settlers?

[Al-Husayni] That is true. If the Israeli people are presented with a situation in which they have to choose between settlers and the Israeli army, they will choose the Israeli army. The Israeli Government is required to take a firm stand. I believe that a firm stand will yield election profits to the government. Mr. Rabin has to take the required stand and to proceed toward that end. Because his success in this regard will allow the Labor Party to remain in office after the elections; otherwise, the Labor Party will lose its leverage in the future.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, are you still in touch with the Israeli peace forces to involve them in the fight against settlers?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, our contacts with them are continuing.

[Al-Qazzaz] We pray to God that your efforts will be successful.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat-Peres Talks Yield 'Partial Agreement'

Joint Statement Sought

TA1008180895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Aug 95

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik video report; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat hope to publish a joint statement in Taba within a few hours on their agreement with regard to several key clauses of the interim accord in the West Bank. The Hebron issue nevertheless remains unresolved, and 'Arafat is demanding that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraw from the entire town by the end of 1995. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports from Taba:

[Sukenik] Good evening from the 10th floor of the Taba Hilton. As we speak, Yasir 'Arafat, Shim'on Peres, and their aides have resumed the omplex negotiations over the issues that are at the heart of the interim

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arrangement in the West Bank. These issues focus on how the Palestinian autonomy can coexist together with Israeli settlements. This afternoon, Shim'on Peres took a refreshing walk from the Taba Hilton to the Egyptian-Israeli border checkpoint after long hours in which he and 'Arafat attempted to remove the main stumbling blocks pertaining to the IDF's redeployment, especially with regard to those stages scheduled to take place next year after the Palestinian elections. Just when the parties started making real progress, the talks hit deadlock again.

[Begin recording] [Peres] We have been dealing with five or six issues. We reached agreements with regard to a large part of these issues. As it happens, we have to agree both on the content and the phrasing. Once you finish negotiating the content you start negotiating the phrasing. When our respective teams sat down to formulate the agreement, disagreements arose, as could be expected. We have now become involved in the phrasing itself.

[Sukenik] In other words, both parties have reached agreement on the content?

[Peres] Look, I prefer not to reply because you may receive the wrong impression. Until the phrasing is worked out, there is no agreement. [end recording]

[Sukenik] The root of the problem, it appears, is 'Arafat's refusal to settle for the IDF's withdrawal from six Palestinian towns on the West Bank by the end of the year. He is also demanding control over the seventh town, Hebron.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat's adviser Marwan Kanafani] *Hebron is a city, a Palestinian city just like any other city and should be treated like a sister.*

[Sukenik] *You said something about Hebron being a hostage?*

[Kanafani] *We do not want Hebron to be a hostage to 47 Israeli families. These people are willing to live with us under Palestinian jurisdiction. We have other experiences like that — you know, like in Hebron — in Jericho that work. We have lived with you people for a long time. You are welcome to live among us, but we refuse on the other hand to have 150,000 Palestinian hostages for less than 200 people. This is not only wrong, it is unfair too.*[end recording]

[Sukenik] The leaders did not even have time to discuss other burning issues, for example, the water problem. As for this issue, it was already agreed in a telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that a joint U.S.-Palestinian-Israeli body would soon deal with the question of who will control the West Bank's water resources over the coming years.

'Arafat and Peres have already devoted almost an entire week to the negotiations in Taba. Let us stress that the most optimistic scenario has them setting the principles for resolving some of the key problems on the way to expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank as early as tonight; however, it will undoubtedly take many days, if not weeks, before a complete interim agreement for the West Bank is signed and implemented.

Peres Claims Agreement; Kanafani Says No

NC1008151495 Paris AFP in English
1505 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taba, Egypt, Aug 10 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO have agreed on most issues for the spread of self-rule and have decided to draft the points of accord, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced.

"We have agreed on most issues," he told reporters. "We have begun to draft (the accords) and problems of language have arisen. We have tried to solve them.

"We have decided that four delegates will carry out the drafting, two from either side."

He said the process would continue until 1630 GMT after which he would get together with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat again to finalise it.

'Arafat and Peres met in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba on Thursday for the fourth day running to hammer out the deal.

However 'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani cast serious doubt on Peres' optimism.

"We are still negotiating," he said. "It's more than that (a problem of language).

"We don't have an agreement now on many of the issues, only on some of them. Unless there is an agreement on all of the issues we don't have an agreement."

He said the Israeli refusal to withdraw from the West Bank town of Hebron was one of the major sticking points.

"Hebron will make or break the agreement. We cannot be hostages of 400 settlers," he said.

Israel wants to stay in Hebron to protect the settlers who are surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

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Kanafani Examines Talks' Problems

JN1008182695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1520 GMT 10 Aug 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, PA media spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat, by As'ad 'Attar, in Taba on 10 August; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kanafani] There are two kinds of problems. There are problems related to routine and traditional issues such as when you stop discussing general issues and begin discussing particular issues. For example, when you stop discussing a topic related to principle and begin discussing a detailed topic many obstacles and differences will surface.

There are problems which emerged from the very beginning and which we did not conceal. We have thus far not been pleased with the way the Israeli Government is addressing the Hebron issue, the further redeployment [preceding two words in English], as well as the movements, number, and freedom of movement of the Palestinian forces. From the very beginning, we did not say at all that we were in agreement with the Israeli Government in this regard.

We only said we want to reach agreement, and we still want to do so. President 'Arafat today said he wants to reach agreement. However, we cannot agree to anything that does not guarantee our minimum demands. By meeting these minimum demands, the Palestinian Authority [PA] can promote an agreement that will satisfy our aspirations—which is no secret. In other words, we aspire for total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian territories.

Therefore, these problems surface now. President 'Arafat addressed them and held long hours of discussions from 1200 to about 1800 or 1730 today. We are proceeding slowly. There are issues that need to be addressed. There are other issues which require the Israeli negotiators to understand the situation of the Palestinian side and to understand that President 'Arafat has his own people with particular demands, has opposition, and is required to achieve a useful and satisfactory settlement regarding the current situation.

These are the problems which we are facing and on which we are achieving gradual progress. Two of the brothers — namely, Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], head of the negotiating delegation, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat — in addition to two Israeli delegates, are discussing another way of drafting an announcement on last week's meetings. We hope we will make progress tonight.

['Attar] Hence, you do not accept the formula which was drafted.

[Kanafani] The formula Israel has submitted is unacceptable. The clear formula we submitted was not accepted by the Israelis. We are now trying to work out a better formula that takes into account our, as well as their, objections, so President 'Arafat and Minister Peres will discuss it at 1930 today.

['Attar] Has any progress been made?

[Kanafani] There has been progress. There is nothing in the world on which progress has not been made. For example, President 'Arafat and Minister Peres today agreed that they want to have lunch. This was not objected to by us or the Israelis.

['Attar] Marwan Kanafani, media spokesman for PA head Yasir 'Arafat: The meeting between the PA head and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will resume at 1930 today. Hence, the next moments and hours are apparently decisive with regard to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Memorandum To Be Initialed 'Tonight'

NC1008165395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1634 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 10 Aug (MENA)—Israeli and Palestinian sources here this evening said a memorandum of understanding between the Palestinian and Israeli sides is expected to be initialed tonight.

A legal team from both sides is now drafting the memorandum after joining the meeting held this afternoon between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

MENA has learned that the memorandum of understanding will include the security arrangements in the rural areas, the Hebron issue, water, energy, infrastructure, the East Jerusalem inhabitants' right to vote in the elections, and the need to set a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian territories in three stages by June 1997.

MENA has also learned from Palestinian sources that the working committees will resume meetings next week on the basis of the new memorandum of understanding. The interim agreement is expected to be signed this month and Israel will begin redeploying its troops in the Palestinian territories in the West Bank next month.

Teams Almost Complete Phrasing

TA1008191295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, speaking in Taba a short while ago, said that the discussions were making progress and that the joint

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teams would complete their proposals for the phrasing of the autonomy agreement in Judaea and Samaria within a short time. Then, 'Arafat, Peres, and their aides will reconvene to discuss the proposed phrasing. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the main stumbling block remains the nature of the arrangement in Hebron.

Jericho VOP Details Talks

JN1108003695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Taba]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat is now meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Hilton Hotel in Taba to resume their talks which aim to remove obstacles and reach an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

President 'Arafat and Peres held a meeting here at noon today. After the meeting, which was followed by a working luncheon, Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, said that if all obstacles are removed, both delegations will discuss details and draft what was agreed.

Kanafani pointed out that the Palestinian side accepted some of Peres' proposals and rejected others, but he did not give details. He also asserted that if the outstanding issues on Hebron and redeployment are not resolved and if they are deferred to the final phase no agreement will be reached.

For his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Peres said there is a possibility to reach something today. He expressed hope that both sides will reach an agreement in tonight's meeting, which is under way.

Peres added that such an agreement should be written but there is a certain distance between what was agreed and what will be signed. He pointed out that questions have surfaced about the implementation of the agreements on which an understanding was reached. He asserted that all problems are difficult.

Peres added that the ongoing meeting was held to consider how to proceed with implementing the agreements and discussing the outstanding issues. He said that many outstanding problems have been resolved.

'Arafat: Partial Agreement Reached

NC1108053995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, declared this morning that they have reached a partial agreement on expanding the Palestinian self-rule to cover the West Bank. They said the agreement was signed by Palestinian and Israeli officials.

At a joint news conference with Peres, 'Arafat said: We can now say we have an agreement, even though some issues remain unresolved and will be referred to the subcommittees. The Palestinian-Israeli working committees are scheduled to resume their meetings next week.

Agreement on Interim Accord Initialed

TA1108055395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement was initialed in Taba last night by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and Palestinian chief negotiator Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] after marathon talks all week between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz is on the phone live from Taba:

[Raz] Two exhausted men faced the microphones and cameras early this morning and quietly announced that they had formulated an agreement. The work was not over, Peres stressed, but making any further progress would be impossible without this agreement.

[Peres] *The agreement has been initialed by Mr. Uri Savir, on behalf of the Israeli delegation, and Mr. Abu-'Ala', in the name of the Palestinian delegation. It will be presented to the cabinet which will endorse the agreement when it is fully completed. This is only part of the agreement, not all of it. Therefore, although we are bringing it to the cabinet's attention, the agreement will only be fully endorsed when it is complete.*

[Raz] What does the document's package deal contain? It defines the rural area in the West Bank and specifies the second stage of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in greater detail. The Hebron issue is only mentioned in general terms. 'Arafat said that this is the main difficulty. Peres immediately replied that it was not true and that other issues had also been left unresolved such as the distribution of water resources and elections in the territories.

[A similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 11 August notes that "The seventh and last issue dealt with this week was also the most problematic one: the Hebron issue. Large gaps still remain between the parties' positions on this issue which

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is why Hebron was only mentioned in a wider context in the document setting out the package deal." IDF Radio carries a short recorded passage in which Foreign Minister Peres says: "All the references pertaining to Hebron were couched in very general terms because we have still not reached full agreement on the details. We have therefore established a committee to continue dealing with this matter."]

The document also addresses the release of Palestinian prisoners, tax collection, the establishment of a joint Palestinian-U.S.-Israeli committee on water issues and economic cooperation, and the amendment of the Palestinian National Covenant within two months of the date of elections in the territories.

['Arafat, in English] *What has been achieved tonight is a very important and strategic step on the accurate line.*

[Raz translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] 'Arafat was visibly uncomfortable when I asked him about the latest furor caused by his remarks about jihad.

['Arafat, in English] *The big jihad is the struggle for the peace, the struggle for the humanitarian aspect, the struggle for civilian affairs, for developing the whole life of our people and this is a sacred speech to our Prophet Muhammad.*

[Raz translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Next week, the committees will resume work and Peres and 'Arafat will meet again if necessary. Thus, the Taba marathon came to its end late last night.

Israel's Savir Comments on Agreement

TA1108060595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, in Taba, by anchorman Yoram Ronen — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] Good morning to Mr. Uri Savir.

[Savir] Good morning.

[Ronen] You have not slept for several nights.

[Savir] We are pretty much used to going without sleep in these negotiations.

[Ronen] Mr. Savir, I believe that in the course of this week's race against time in Taba both parties decided to sign an agreement at any price despite the fact that many serious issues remain unresolved, especially the Hebron and water issues.

[Savir] No, that is not true. I would not say at any price. We did not want to concede any vital interests, especially in the security sphere, and I think that this agreement paves the way for the continuation of the negotiations by removing several large obstacles pertaining to Israel's responsibility for security in the rural areas, the transfer of additional powers in Judaea and Samaria, and the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, without marking out in advance the security areas which will remain under Israel's control for the duration of the agreement.

[Ronen] To state things plainly, Mr. Savir, will the IDF continue control over Judaea and Samaria even in the areas that will be transferred to the PLO?

[Savir] That is true, with the exception of Palestinian cities.

[Ronen] What will happen with the serious problems we mentioned such as Hebron?

[Savir] Look, when does a problem become serious? When it is one of the last problems left on the agenda. We have solved a myriad of problems in this comprehensive and complex agreement and we definitely should not turn this issue into an ideological cause. There is no doubt that Hebron is a sensitive issue. I think that many ideas for a solution were floated....

[Ronen, interrupting] Such as the idea raised by the mayor of Hebron to move the Jews out to Qiryat Arba'?

[Savir] No Jews or Israelis will be moved anywhere under the terms of this agreement and we merely want to guarantee the safety of the Israelis in Hebron. We shall find a way to do this without harming the Palestinian population in the city. A subcommittee on this issue has been formed and we shall guarantee security while at the same time enabling the Palestinians to hold free elections.

[Ronen] You say that the Hebron question will be resolved in a matter of time. Will the problem of water distribution also be resolved?

[Savir] I think that this is really one of the toughest problems. We are negotiating so many issues. In the beginning, people present extreme positions but ultimately things are resolved in a pragmatic fashion because when all is said and done the entire agreement is built on a very pragmatic partnership. As far as we are concerned, there will be no change in the present water ratios and we will have to find ways and means to increase both parties' water resources. This will also help to strengthen cooperation.

[Ronen] Uri Savir, what about the release of Palestinian prisoners? This is almost a PLO ultimatum. Will the release of prisoners start next week?

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[Savir] No, there will be no release of prisoners before an agreement is completed, as was the case with the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. The Palestinians have presented very far-reaching demands. The ministerial committee has been examining this matter for some time and this committee will decide on the numbers of prisoners to be freed.

[Ronen] Mr. Savir, when in your assessment, will the parties be able to sign an agreement in Washington?

[Savir] The final date and venue have not been set. I think that the breakthrough we made on the issues in Taba is important and will permit us to engage in far more intensive work in the future. A lot of work still lies ahead in the civil sphere, there are formulations to be completed, some obstacles in the security sphere, and there are still two issues pertaining to the elections. As we witnessed in Taba, everything depends on political will. If our political will remains firm, we will reach a complex and good agreement hopefully within a few weeks that will usher in a new reality between the Palestinians and Israel. Even though, of course, there will continue to be problems.

[Ronen] Will we have an agreement before the Jewish New Year in September?

[Savir] I believe so.

[Ronen] Thank you very much, Mr. Savir.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 11 August also carries a live interview with Uri Savir. When asked to comment on 'Arafat's statements about jihad, Savir replies: "I do not have to explain his remarks. That is for him to do. I can only say that with regard to the negotiations, 'Arafat most definitely stressed the fact that he was coordinating security matters with us and he even expressly stated as much at the news conference yesterday; and even more importantly, as someone with a vital security interest in quelling terrorism and cooperating with us in the peace process. This does not justify his recent remarks. He tried to explain them yesterday and I propose that he continue to do so. What counts as far as we are concerned are clearly his more positive statements, but what is even more important: actions to prevent violence and enhance cooperation between the two sides. And, I believe that yesterday's agreement bolsters this trend."]

Partial Agreement Detailed

NC1108091595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0712 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Taba, 11 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli parties this morning initialed a partial agreement on several issues that had obstructed implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles and expanding the Palestinian self-rule. Two committees will be formed under this agreement, an ad hoc committee on Hebron and a Palestinian-U.S.-Israeli water committee. Also, 1,200 Palestinian detainees will be released by the Israeli authorities in two phases, the first after signing the phased agreement and the second on the eve of the Palestinian elections.

The partial Palestinian-Israeli agreement defined the areas from which Israel will withdraw—the West Bank cities known as Zone A. In the villages adjacent to the Israeli territories known as Zone B, Israel will assume security affairs and the Palestinian police will assume the other tasks relating to the Palestinian people. Zone C—the military areas, settlements, and the Jordan Valley—will be fully supervised by Israel. The agreement did not set a date for the Palestinian elections in the self-rule areas. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has pledged to alter the Palestinian Charter, especially the clause that considers Israel to be a hostile state, two months after the signing of the final agreement.

At a joint news conference with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the end of the meeting, 'Arafat described the partial agreement as a positive, important, and fruitful step on the right path. He said: During the meeting, we discussed important issues on dividing the West Bank into Zones A, B, and C. This involved villages, camps, settlements, military zones, and city of Hebron, which was referred to an ad hoc committee that will meet soon. He added: We also discussed the water problem, the detainees, etc.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres said today's agreement will be submitted to the Israeli Cabinet, which will discuss it next week. This agreement, he said, is another step toward the phased agreement. He noted that he and 'Arafat held intensive talks recently to overcome most of the problems that required political decisions.

Peres said the agreement included important issues, such as security in Zone B, taxation, and an amendment to the Palestinian Charter. He said: We held intensive talks to come to this conclusion which will help the committees and negotiators reach a full-phased agreement.

Uri Savir, Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, said the partial agreement removed many obstacles toward granting powers to the Palestinians and achieved positive results for both sides on the redeployment of Israeli Forces, the city of Hebron, and elections. He pointed out that Israel retained security, noting that the Israeli army will control the West Bank except for the cities. He said: The Israeli position on the water issue has not changed, it is a difficult problem and will eventually be solved realistically based on realistic

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sharing and understanding. Savir, who is also the head of the Israeli negotiating delegation, said the Hebron issue is a sensitive one and was therefore referred to an ad hoc committee. He also noted that Israeli authorities will begin releasing detainees next week.

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will resume their meeting next week in light of the partial agreement reached today. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Journalist Reported Dead Is Alive

NC1008124895 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Aug 10 (AFP)—A journalist reported dead by her employer L'HEBDO LIBERE is alive, the newspapers AL-KHABAR and ECH-CHAAB said Thursday [10 August].

The journalist Aicha Benamar, who learnt of her death after reading press reports, telephoned the newspapers to say she was alive and well and staying with her parents in Ain Defla, western Algeria, the papers said.

On Tuesday the daily HEBDO LIBERE said the body of a woman found with her throat cut by security forces on August 2 was Benamar, who had taken leave from the newspaper. The true identity of the body remains a mystery.

Thirty-six journalists have been assassinated in Algeria since 1993. They are one of the key groups targeted by fundamentalists, especially the most radical of them, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

Egypt

Musa Phones 'Arafat, Peres To Follow Up on Talks

NC1008141095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 10 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. These contacts are part of Egypt's efforts to follow up the Palestinian-Israeli talks in an attempt to overcome the hurdles that still obstruct an agreement between the two sides to implement the second stage of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles.

Mubarak Said in Geneva To Undergo Medical Tests

NC1008213295 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Diplomatic sources have said that President Husni Mubarak arrived in Geneva today on a private visit. He met Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates.

According to the sources, President Mubarak will undergo medical tests in Geneva, although there are no signs that he is indisposed.

Official Denies Military Reinforcements in Hala'ib

NC1008145995 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General 'Abd-al-Hamid Siraj-al-Din, head of the Hala'ib Triangle City Council, has denied the presence of Egyptian military reinforcements in the triangle.

Answering foreign correspondents' questions at a news conference in Shalatayn, Maj. Gen. Siraj-al-Din said Egyptian troops stationed there come from the border guard.

'Abd-al-Salam al-Shishtawi, the city council's deputy head, said Sudanese citizens enter the Hala'ib Triangle without visas. After handing over their identity cards at the border crossing point the Sudanese are given transit passes to enter Hala'ib, he added, noting that they are permitted to buy any goods and take them back with them to Sudan.

An Egyptian and international media delegation made up of over 100 journalists and correspondents from news agencies visited the Hala'ib Triangle area yesterday.

Protection for Workers in Libya Discussed

NC1008140695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 10 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that contacts are now under way between the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the Libyan authorities to ensure that the rights of Egyptian workers in Libya are protected.

Large numbers of Egyptians working in Libya have been arriving at the al-Sallum crossing point over the past few days after the Libyan authorities decided to expel all foreigners in Libya, concentrating on those who do not have work contracts certified by the government.

Petroleum Minister Views Expansion of Oil Pipeline

NC1008163795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has announced that the capacity of the Sumed [Suez-Mediterranean] pipeline, which transports Arab Gulf oil to the European and North American markets via Egyptian territory, has risen from 1.6 to 2.5 million barrels per day following the start of the third phase of a plan to upgrade the project. Under the plan, new pumping stations in Dahshur, al-Jizah Governorate, are operating to pump crude oil. Storage capacity has been increased and a

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new pumping station to load tankers in Sidi Karir on the Mediterranean has been added.

Speaking after opening the new pumping station in Dahshur today, Dr. al-Banbi said the cost of the onshore expansion has reached $120 million, while the offshore expansion has cost $140 million. He noted that the Sumed pipeline is a model of Arab economic integration and one of the most successful joint ventures. Egypt, he added, has 50 percent of the shares in the pipeline, while Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait have 15 percent each and Qatar has 5 percent. He emphasized that the trend in Egypt now is to encourage Egyptian-Arab joint investment projects, particularly in major petroleum projects, adding that some Arab petroleum exporting countries are thinking of ways to link their pipelines with Sumed.

Dr. al-Banbi pointed out that Egypt now gets 28 percent of the revenue from the transit of oil via Egyptian territory. Thus far, Egypt has earned over $500 million in revenue from the project, he added. As a shareholder with a 50-percent share in the profits, Egypt has grossed another $500 million in profits, over five times Egypt's share in the project's capital, something that shows how successful the project is, he added. He stressed that there is integration, not competition, between Sumed and the Suez Canal. The Sumed pipeline serves tankers with a capacity of 250,000 tons and above as well as supertankers carrying over 350,000 tons, which cannot transit the Suez Canal, he explained.

Sumed Chairman Dr. 'Ali Nazih pointed out that the Dahshur pumping station, which will increase the pipeline's capacity from 80 million to 117 million tons annually, cost $53 million. It is made up of six main pumps units that operate on natural gas under the most advanced control and protection methods. He added that Sumed has four floating docks in al-'Ayn al-Sukhnah on the Gulf of Suez as well as six others in Sidi Karir, which makes it the owner of the largest number of floating docks for loading and unloading crude oil in the world. The al-'Ayn al-Sukhnah storage capacity is 19 million barrels and plans are under way to increase it to 24 million barrels, he added.

Islamic Group Attacks Muslim Brotherhood Line

MM1008151195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Egypt: Islamic Group Violently Attacks Muslim Brotherhood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — The Islamic Group launched a virulent attack on the Muslim Brotherhood, banned in Egypt, and said they were surprised at "the Muslim Brotherhood's rash support for statements of condemnation, disapproval, and disavowal of any jihad that could be termed terrorism." AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy of a publication issued by the Information Bureau of the Islamic League of Upholders of the Book [Koran] and the Sunnah [Prophet's teaching] based in London, whose membership includes Islamic Group elements, containing a statement entitled: "The Muslim Brotherhood and the Statements of Condemnation and Disapproval." The article says: "This unique relationship between the Muslim Brotherhood's statements and the positions of the Egyptian Government will seem strange to many people, but is not strange to us. What would appear remarkably surprising to some is that each time the Muslim Brotherhood wastes its breath in statements of condemnation, disapproval, and disavowal of any jihad that would be termed terrorism, the government redoubles its hardened stance against them and aims repeated blows at them — sometimes below the belt — making it look like moments of weakness and a boxer's loss of the balance, throwing him on the ropes and enabling his opponent to aim as many blows as possible which, if not fatal, would in the end gain him winning points."

It adds: "Some would explain the Muslim Brotherhood's position as a deliberate tactical political move aimed at unidentified strategic gains not linked to any set schedule. There are those who say that the Muslim Brotherhood wants to avoid confrontation with the regime, and there are those who say that it intends to frustrate the enemies of the Islamic movement who have adopted a policy of drying up sources and have actually started to implement such a policy. There also those who say: The Muslim Brotherhood wants to prove that the other groups are illegitimate, especially the Islamic Group, in accordance with the Muslim Brotherhood's belief that it alone has the sole right to Islamic action whilst other budding groups that have recently sprung up in the political arena cannot be outside the mantle of the Muslim Brotherhood. This is a good joke for which the Muslim Brotherhood should be held accountable."

The statement asks: "What has the Muslim Brotherhood achieved since its inception relative to the meaning and aims of Islam, the hopes and aspirations of Muslim people, and the duties and necessities of the times? Is any group capable nowadays of achieving self-sufficiency alone? And is the Islamic arena so cluttered with groups, ideas, and preachers that one group alone can justify monopolizing the work for God's religion? Do not the needs of the call and Islamic work transcend the efforts of the whole Islamic movement and are they still not increasing?"

In the article's view, the Muslim Brotherhood "is suffering from a serious disease which compels it to take a stance that is almost hostile." It goes on to say that the

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Muslim Brotherhood "does not learn despite its numerous unsuccessful experiences and the great number of pitfalls that they have tripped over." The statement adds: "The truth is that these positions (the Muslim Brotherhood's) are a natural reflection of the Muslim Brotherhood's policies and stands towards secular governments. In fact, it embraces the legality of these governments and does not recognize the legitimacy of its own jihad."

It points out that the government "can never believe that the Muslim Brotherhood has irreversibly forsaken violence; instead it believes that if that happened it would only be a smoke screen and that the Muslim Brotherhood has an enduring relationship with terrorism." The statement concluded "that the government is acting according to the popular Egyptian proverb: He who burns his mouth on hot soup will blow even on cold yogurt."

Libya

Algerian Interior Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD1008190995 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 10 Aug (JANA) — Algerian Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Al-Muntasir Meets With Russian Envoy

LD1008113995 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1058 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 10 Aug — The secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation ['Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir] met this morning with Aleksey Podtserov, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Great Jamahiriyah.

They reviewed the outcome of a Libyan Arab economic delegation's recent visit to Moscow [words indistinct] the situation in former Yugoslavia and issues of mutual concern.

Sudan

TNA Speaker Meets Students Deported From Egypt

EA1108105695 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Transitional National Assembly [TNA] Speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah received a delegation of students deported from Egypt today. The students had been tortured, expelled from universities, and treated badly by the Egyptian authorities. Khalifah commended the role of students in the national work and development efforts.

Opposition Leader Bushra Returns to Country

EA1008225595 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] One of the leaders of the so-called Sudanese opposition abroad, Major General (ret) Al-Hadi Bushra [charged with treason in absentia in 1990 and member of the national democratic alliance] returned to Sudan today.

He had been convinced of the futility of opposition due to the revolution's programs and national policies. He is to hold a press conference on the reasons for his return.

Ali Receives Message From Russian Counterpart

EA1008153495 Khartoum SUNA in French 1700 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 9 Aug (SUNA) — The minister of defense, General [title as received] Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali, has received a written message from the Russian first deputy defense minister on aspects of mutual cooperation between Sudan and the Russian Federation. The message was delivered by the Russian ambassador in Khartoum during his meeting this morning with the Sudanese minister of defense.

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Kuwait

Iraq Defense Minister Removal, U.S. Ties Viewed

95LH0238A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 19 Jul 95 p 25

[Article by Dr. Shafiq Nazim al-Ghabra: "Will the U.S. Representative's Visit to Baghdad Pave the Way for Dialogue Between the U.S. Administration and Iraq?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The release of the American detainees in Baghdad took place following weeks of secret efforts by President Clinton's friend, Democratic Representative Bill Richardson. These efforts were crowned with Richardson's public visit to Baghdad and his meeting with the Iraqi president. This visit and its outcome must be considered within the framework of the sanctions' diplomacy and the conflict about Iraq and its future. While releasing the detainees is part of Baghdad's efforts to endear itself to the U.S. Administration to lift the economic and oil embargo imposed on it, it also reflects some flexibility in the White House toward dealing with Iraq if it abides by the remaining provisions of the UN resolutions against it. The White House said that President Clinton knew about this humanitarian visit. It is possible to say that this visit was the first contact on this level in Baghdad since 1991. It reflects the beginning of a slow shift in American-Iraqi relations.

Representative Bill Richardson, a Democrat from the State of New Mexico, has been reelected seven times since 1982. He is a leading member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, deputy chairman of the Democratic Party's national committee, and a friend of President Clinton. Richardson could be the first link in the chain of contacts and negotiations between the United States and Iraq. It is worth noting that this was not his first mission. Richardson visited many countries on similar missions to help in the release of hostages or in convincing governments to release opposition leaders. He undertook successful and brilliant missions in Vietnam, North Korea, Haiti, and Burma.

Although most observers do not expect a major shift in U.S. policy toward Iraq, especially as the presidential elections are around the corner in 1996, such a wager might not hold. If Iraq agrees to additional UN and U.S. conditions and promises to open up toward the United States and Israel, then lifting the oil embargo, in one way or another, would become possible. The international community would also pay less attention to trade across the Turkish-Iraqi and Jordanian-Iraqi borders. We can say that the U.S. Administration has given up hope of removing Saddam Husayn from power and that it might prefer him to the unknown, but the problem now lies in the timing of the preference, its method, form, and limits, because it demands much change in Iraqi policy and extensive negotiations about the U.S. conditions.

The release of the detained Americans took place one week after the UN Security Council again voted to keep in place the UN sanctions against Iraq. In other words, the release of the two Americans took place at a time when Iraq was seeking to prove its readiness to negotiate, talk, and abide. The release also took place just when Iraq admitted that it had biological weapons and a few days before a UN inspection team visited Iraq to check on these weapons. It is worth noting that in principle, this is the last of the Iraqi mass destruction weapons' files on the table. However, in his speech the day before yesterday, Saddam Husayn threatened to stop cooperating with the Security Council unless progress was made during this period. Thus, there has been escalation and also an apparent serious attempt to cover the final distance in the policy of commitment to implement the UN sanctions. Therefore, the coming period will be critical.

One day after Richardson's departure, Iraq stripped Hasan 'Ali al-Majid of his powers in the Defense Ministry. Learning the depth of this conflict is difficult, but it is possible that the head of al-Majid was one of the American and UN conditions "for improving the state of human rights in Iraq" in preparation for lifting the sanctions. Al-Majid is definitely a symbol of Iraq's worst actions in Kuwait and in the Kurdish areas. He was the one who used chemical weapons there. Al-Majid's removal from his post could be associated with Iraq's attempt to improve its political and humanitarian image abroad while maintaining Saddam at the head of the regime in Iraq. This means that Iraq must now try to improve its image at home and take measures in this direction. Iraq's announcement of an amnesty for opposition elements a few days ago is difficult to believe or take seriously, but it compels Iraq to address the issue. The existing regime might not have many options if it really wants to lift the sanctions and coexist at home and abroad. The question is: Can Iraq change what it has been accustomed to doing under the ruling regime? This will be a challenge to the existing regime if it wants international policy toward it to change.

The coming weeks might witness an intensification in the political struggle over the Iraqi file. The U.S. Administration is currently preoccupied with the domestic situation and with the peace files and other files in the world. However, the Iraqi file might impose itself if Iraq can offer the required concessions at the appropriate time and make a clear and tangible change in its policy on human rights. We might be asking for the

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impossible, but who knows? The impossible took place between 'Arafat and Israel and between 'Arafat and the United States. Something much less close to this example might take place between the Security Council and Iraq and between Iraq and the United States. The coming period will be full of such possibilities because the option of negotiations alone can maintain the balance in the Gulf between Iran and Iraq. It alone can prevent anarchy in Iraq and perhaps prevent new crises between Iraq and its neighbors. Devising a clever formula, which guarantees that Iraq cannot secure concessions it does not deserve and that it would implement the remaining provisions of the UN resolutions, is the challenge facing the international community today.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Appeals to Citizens To Help Bosnia's Muslims

LD1008200595 Riyadh SPA in English 1930 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Aug 10, SPA — Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz today urged citizens to help the Moslem people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in line with the duty of the Islamic brotherhood and offer them everything that could be generated for 'our brothers in faith, who are suffering the sinful aggression, as we follow up the extremely dangerous development of events there.

"Your brothers, are appealing for help.
As such, you should respond to this appeal.
Allah, will not let anyone suffer,
to perish the reward,
of any who do
a (single) righteous deed,' King Fahd said."

In a statement on the occasion of "campaign of the custodian of the two holy mosques for solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina," King Fahd said "with the emerging deep sorrows and piercing of Moslems' hearts in the world and what has been happening to our Moslem brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who are now target of inhuman and open aggression, killings, displacements and destructions imposed on them by the aggressive Serbs, covering all aspects of their lives before a clear global audio and visual witnessing, it is deplorable that the world has opted to remain a spectator of the ugliest human slaughters, that would be registered in the dark pages of history."

"The Serbs aggression on children, women and elderly Moslems in Bosnia-Herzegovina is an open expression and provides a shameful image of what the matters would be, if law of jungle is to be prevailed. There are some parties, who have become professionals in finding scapegoats from rules and bases of the divine law and the international norms, which ensure dignity of life for human beings and security and stability within the walls of their houses and under the skies of their nations."

"Dear brothers, Saudi Arabia, in line with its commitments to the almighty Allah's divine law and teachings of the Prophet (may god's peace be upon him), has been making untiring efforts to support the Moslem brothers and ensure victories to their causes as it has mobilized all means, and is working in all forums through numerous channels since the start of the aggression against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to ensure success to the cause of this Moslem peaceful people, who have fallen victim to the Serbs aggressors engaged in the annihilation of Moslems there," King Fahd said.

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Saddam Sends Envoys to Amman To Resolve 'Family Matter'

MM1108120495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri, 'Adnan Husayn, Muhammad Sadiq, and Khalil Matar: "Defection of Saddam's Sons-in-Law and Daughters to Jordan Opens Gap in Iraqi Regime's Leadership"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Washington, New York, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The defection to Jordan of Iraqi Industry and Minerals Minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil, and their wives, who are daughters of the Iraqi president, has opened a breach in the leadership of the Iraqi regime. It has also opened the door to a crisis between Iraq and Jordan, which has granted them political asylum despite 'Udayy Saddam Husayn's and Hasan al-Majid's sudden arrival in Jordan yesterday to request their extradition. [passage omitted]

King Husayn yesterday evening received the Iraqi president's son 'Udayy and presidential adviser 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who had arrived in Amman yesterday.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that 'Udayy handed the Jordanian monarch a private message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn concerning the issue of Gen. Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan.

Informed sources have said that the Iraqi president asked King Husayn to mediate to resolve the issue, which the Iraqi president considers a family matter. But the sources stressed that it is difficult for Jordan to backtrack on its decision to grant Gen. Husayn Kamil and his group political asylum, unless the general himself is persuaded and agrees to return to Baghdad.

In New York, UN circles have said that international envoy Rolf Ekeus might try to meet with Husayn Kamil in Amman to continue to discuss the Iraqi germ weapons file. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information indicates that until yesterday evening Gen. Husayn Kamil had completely refused to meet with 'Udayy. 'Udayy pointed out to Jordanian officials that his visit to Amman is aimed at resolving the issue, on the grounds that it is a matter concerning the family of the Iraqi president personally, and that his aim is to achieve reconciliation with Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil.

Iraqi opposition circles in Amman have ruled out the possibility of Husayn Kamil's return to Baghdad, because he knows what his fate will be if his returns — liquidation.

The sources added that the incident is part of the concealed conflicts that have been taking place among members of Saddam's family for over two years.

The sources pointed out that Husayn Kamil was the strong party in the cousins camp in the face of the sons camp, represented in the president's sons, 'Udayy and Qusayy, and the half-brothers' camp, represented in Barzan, Watban, and Sab'awi. [passage omitted]

Husayn Kamil was cited as saying after his defection to Jordan: "I tried to reform the situation from within the regime. But I have now ascertained that it is not possible to reform it from within. All those who want to rescue the country must unite and work together."

Some reports have said that Husayn Kamil was hit by a bullet — believed to have been fired by 'Udayy — in his leg on Tuesday. And that he departed Iraq after this incident on the same day. Views vary vis-a-vis how Husayn Kamil fled the country. Some sources say that he probably managed to preempt an order for his arrest.

Other sources say that President Saddam knew beforehand of Husayn Kamil's intention to defect and decided that the best solution was to let him leave to live in exile.

Some Western analysts believe that Husayn Kamil probably went to Jordan to negotiate a way for the Iraqi president himself to depart, then for a national unity government to be formed in Iraq.

These analysts say that the incident of Husayn Kamil's defection to Amman is bound to substantially reinforce Jordan's role in determining the destiny of the regime in Iraq.

Replacements for Husayn Kamil Hasan Named

JN1008173795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Republican decrees have been issued relieving Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and director of the Military Industrialization Organization of his post; appointing 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim, deputy chief of the Presidential Office, minister of industry and minerals; and appointing Oil Minister Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid acting director of the Military Industrialization Organization, in addition to his ministerial post.

The following is the text of these decrees:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Republican Decree No. 254

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Based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and director of the Military Industrialization Organization, shall be relieved of his post.

The competent authorities shall implement this decree.
Issued in Baghdad on 9 August 1995.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

The Republic of Iraq
Republican Decree No. 255

Based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim, deputy chief of the Presidential Office, shall be appointed minister of industry and minerals.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.
Issued in Baghdad on 14 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 10 August 1995.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

The Republic of Iraq
Republican Decree No. 256

Based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution and Article 4 of the Military Industrialization Organization Law No 41 of 1988, we decree the following:

Oil Minister Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid shall be appointed acting director of the Military Industrialization Organization in addition to his ministerial post.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.
Issued in Baghdad on 10 August 1995
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Saddam Congratulates King Husayn on Accession Anniversary

JN1108082195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0757 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the anniversary of his accession to the throne. The cable says:

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

On the anniversary of your accession to the throne, we are happy to send your majesty our warmest greetings and congratulations. We pray Almighty God to grant you good health and happiness and to grant the fraternal people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan progress and prosperity. We hope that the fraternal relations between our two countries will continue to grow and develop in the interest of our two fraternal peoples and our glorious Arab nation.

Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

Baghdad Reportedly Moves 2 Army Divisions to North

NC1008155295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a statement issued by the Iraqi National Accord Movement [Harakat al-Wifaq al-Watani al-'Iraqi] on 7 August, the Iraqi regime has moved the 10th Armored Division and the 5th Mechanized Division from south to north Iraq.

The statement added that the regime formed a special military command for the northern military sector; it includes the 1st, 2d, and 5th Army Corps, several Republican Guard units, and several units of his special guard.

The statement said the regime reinforced its military units at the (Kayfur) airbase with several fighter aircraft and helrcopters.

The statement reported that regime officials in Karkuk met several clan chiefs who have betrayed the Kurdish cause.

The statement noted that these measures demonstrate the regime's intention to embark on a new military adventure.

Retired High-Ranking Officers Feared 'Liquidated'

NC1008151095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi military sources have said that two high-ranking former officers were killed in two separate accidents in Baghdad last week.

According to the sources, the circumstances of the deaths of Staff Major General [name indistinct] and Police Major General Waddah 'Abd-al-Sattar Hayy—who occupied leading positions in the Armed Forces

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before they were pensioned off—raise questions about the way they died. They were killed in two separate car accidents in the same week.

The sources do not rule out that the security authorities and the military intelligence might have liquidated them, particularly as they were pensioned off a short time ago without any reason being given; they were both in their forties. This reveals the regime's bad intentions, namely, to take them out of the army in the first place and then liquidate them to get rid of them.

The sources fear similar operations by the bloody regime's machinery against former officers and other retirees.

'Defection' Gives Impetus to Dublin Kurdish Talks

LD1008170595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1428 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Drogheda, 10 Aug (KUNA) — An Iraqi opposition leader has said that news of the defection of the two sons-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had fled to Jordan has given an encouraging impetus to progress in the talks currently being held between the two rival Kurdish organizations in northern Iraq [Kurdistan Democratic Party and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan].

In a statement jointly issued with representatives of the two Kurdish organizations, Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, chairman of the Executive Committee of the opposition Iraqi National Congress [INC], said that news of the flight to Jordan of the two sons-in-law of the head of the Baghdad regime, Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, and his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan al-Majid and their wives, was received warmly by the participants in the meeting.

Chalabi said in the joint statement that all the Iraqi opposition groups have viewed what has happened as the most significant evidence that the regime is in a state of total collapse. [passage omitted]

Sa'di Pira, the minister of agriculture in the self-proclaimed government of the Kurdistan region in northern Iraq and representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan at the talks here, said that the significant development today of the flight of Husayn Kamil Hasan al Majid and his brother to Jordan confirmed the decline of the Iraqi leadership.

Pira called on the Iraqi people as a whole to unite their ranks and bring about the fall of the regime quickly and get out of the losing trench.

He urged brotherly and friendly states, particularly Kuwait, which has suffered greatly from Saddam's savage aggression, to stand in solidarity with the Iraqi opposition to get rid of Saddam's tyranny and save the world from his hideousness.

Pira confirmed that the flight of Husayn and his brother from Iraq has given fresh impetus to the currently held Kurdish talks here to unite the ranks of all opposition groups to bring about the fall of the Iraqi regime.

Ahmad Chalabi revealed that Husayn Kamil and his brother's departure was due to a dispute between him and Saddam's two sons after Kamil handed over the file on banned weapons to Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN Committee on Eliminating Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Chalabi said that Saddam's two sons had strongly objected to the handing over of the file, which forced Saddam Husayn to intervene personally to settle the dispute between his sons and the husbands of his daughters, to whom he gave permission to leave Iraq and seek refuge in Jordan.

He said that Husayn Kamil's life was in danger after the dispute.

Chalabi called for: The head of the Iraqi regime and his clique to leave Iraq and disappear from the political arena to enable the Iraqi people to chose their political future freely and speak the truth. [passage omitted]

Sides Studying Compromise

LD1008203095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1944 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Drogheda, 10 Aug (KUNA) — It was said here tonight that the two Kurdish delegations at the Drogheda conference are currently studying a compromise plan to settle their major differences to arrive at a positive solution that will lead to a settlement of the armed struggle between them in northern Iraq.

In a statement to KUNA, reliable sources at the conference said that there was great hope that the two sides — the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] — which are part of the Iraqi opposition, will accept the proposed working paper in whose preparation the Iraqi opposition represented by the Iraqi National Congress had taken part, and which was sponsored by the U.S. delegation, which is playing a role of arbitration to narrow the differences between the two sides and restore calm to the area in northern Iraq, which is under the protection of the Western allies.

It should be recalled that the main points of difference on which work is underway to reach a settlement include control over Arbil, the regional capital in northern Iraq, and the question of the charges levied on Turkish fuel tankers that cross the region.

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On the other hand, the sources say that the talks between the two sides will continue tonight with the aim of reaching a result tomorrow.

The meeting is due to be suspended tomorrow, with great expectations that the result will be positive and satisfy the demands of the two sides in the dispute.

The two Kurdish sides will then hold consultations with their leaders with the aim of resuming the talks very soon at an as yet undecided venue.

The sources expect the next meeting to be decisive in the complete approval of the awaited agreement and might take place between representatives at a higher level than at the Drogheda meeting.

Until now the two Kurdish sides have remained silent on the substance of the talks in accordance with a mutual agreement among the sides.

PUK's Talabani on Intra-Kurdish Fighting

MM1008164395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Aug 95 p 2

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by 'Adnan Husayn in Qalajwalan, Iraqi Kurdistan; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Husayn] Is Mr. Talabani aware of the scale of the harm that the infighting is inflicting on the Kurdish cause?

[Talabani] Yes, he is well aware of that. The harm is very substantial at the domestic level because the infighting is affecting people's morale, the will to struggle, and the Kurds' belief that they can solve their own problems and run their own affairs. It is also inflicting damage on property, lives, social relations among people, and the regional government, whose activities and development and reform programs have been hampered.

At the regional level, the infighting serves the enemies of the Kurdish cause, who have always worked to portray it as the cause of a group of rebels, criminals, and terrorists, rather than the cause of a people seeking freedom. The infighting is also causing regional powers to have more influence, to interfere more in Iraqi Kurdistan, and to blackmail the two warring parties and all Kurdish movements.

At the international level, the fighting is inflicting great harm on the Kurdish movement's reputation. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] So why is the infighting still continuing?

[Talabani] It is continuing because the leadership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] is not interested in the interests of the Kurdish people or the Iraqi national movement. It is linked to Turkey, Iran, and Iraq and working only for the Barzani family, which has always played a treacherous role. This family fought the Kurdish people in the days of the shah. It killed leaders of the (Iranian) Kurdistan Democratic Party and handed their bodies to Iranian authorities. And in the days of the Islamic Republic [of Iran] it fought alongside the Pasdaran (Iranian Revolutionary Guard) against the (Iranian) Kurdistan Democratic Party. And they are now fighting alongside the Turkish Army against the (Turkish) Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK]. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman (member of the Political Bureau and official spokesman for Barzani's party) openly said that they are prepared to recruit 20,000 Iraqi Kurds to fight the PKK if Turkey pays their salaries. It is clear mercenary and overt betrayal of the Kurdish cause. With regard to the Iraqi Government, Barzani's relationship and coordination with Baghdad are very clear. They refused to fight Saddam Husayn's forces when the fighting broke out between them and Iraqi opposition forces last march. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] Was the seizure of Irbil not an escalation of the situation by you?

[Talabani] No.

[Husayn] Irbil is the provincial capital and the home of both the parliament and the government. In the early stages of the fighting you succeeded in keeping it away from the conflict, but you seized it suddenly — which was considered an escalation of the situation.

[Talabani] That is wrong. Those who say that are unfair. Before we were compelled to seize Irbil the KDP had already seized Shaqlawah (a town near Salah al-Din, northeast of Irbil). We had warned them that that would be tantamount to a declaration of war. After Shaqlawah, the next step in their plan was to seize Irbil and conclude an agreement with the Iraqi Government to finish off the [Kurdish] cause completely. We seized Irbil to prevent that and to avert an internal war in the capital, and in order to liberate it from the agent gangs working for the Iraqi Government, operating under the cover and protection of the KDP.

[Husayn] But Irbil has become a problem that is preventing a cessation of the fighting. They [the KDP] believe that your departure from it would be a prelude to a new agreement to enable the local government and parliament to resume their activities.

[Talabani] Their claim that the parliament building is occupied is untrue. You can go there and meet the deputy speaker of parliament, who is neutral. He is there, and there are no individuals in or around the

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parliament building except the policemen originally assigned to protect it. Besides, we have not said that we are not going to depart from Irbil. We are prepared to do so once we arrive at a comprehensive solution on paper. We will agree to the evacuation of Irbil being the first clause in such a solution. The solution for which we are calling will not be a new invention...it is ready: the Paris agreement, decisions of the Kurdistan parliament, and bilateral agreements. Let them choose any one of those and we will accept it and begin to implement it, starting with the evacuation of Irbil. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] Do you believe that the Iraqi Government will accept your conditions or seek a kind of solution with you within the framework of its endeavors to ease the international sanctions and break its isolation?

[Talabani] I do not believe so.

[Husayn] Why?

[Talabani] Because it is a dictatorial regime. And as long as there is dictatorship in Baghdad, there will be no solution to the Kurdish problem, the Shiites problem, the rebuilding problem, or any other problem facing Iraq. Dictatorship is the cause of the calamity. The problems can only be solved through democracy. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] Finally, the United States is making an endeavor to bring you together to resolve your differences. Do you expect this endeavor to succeed?

[Talabani] I am not optimistic about the results. However, we will respond to the U.S. initiative and proceed with it right to the end. I have issued orders to halt the fighting on our side and to take purely a defensive position.

[Husayn] Why are you not optimistic?

[Talabani] Because my fixed conviction is that Mas'ud (Barzani) is in agreement with (Iraqi President) Saddam (Husayn), who does not want this endeavor to succeed.

More Than 300 Pardoned Egyptian Prisoners Released

NC1008160995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1520 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (MENA)—The Iraqi authorities today released Egyptian prisoners held in Iraqi jails for committing various crimes.

Ambassador Rida Nasr, head of the Egyptian interest section in Iraq, told a MENA correspondent that there are over 300 of these prisoners. But he pointed out that he has not yet received from the Iraqi authorities the lists containing the names of those included in the pardon. He added that the Iraqi pardon decision stipulated the release of these prisoners immediately.

The Iraqi authorities earlier pardoned 20 Egyptian prisoners who crossed the Iraqi border by mistake. Another group of prisoners who committed crimes punishable by law will be released in the days to come.

Syrian Front Cables Good Wishes, Support for Saddam

JN1008135395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0625 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicosia, 10 Aug (INA)—The National Front for the Salvation of Syria has congratulated President Saddam Husayn on the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad and the seventh anniversary of the great victory day.

In a cable of congratulations to the president, the Front's political bureau prayed for God Almighty to preserve President Saddam Husayn as an asset to Iraq and the Arab nation, to support him with his spirit, and to honor him with victory over the enemies of God and humanity; namely, U.S. imperialism the criminal Zionism, and their hypocritical and treasonous followers.

The Front's cable pledged that the Syrian people who are besieged by the enemy of the Arabs and Muslins, Hafiz al-Asad, will stand behind the banner of Allahu Akbar which was raised by president Saddam Husayn in defense of great Iraq as it is courageously and daringly defending the unjust plot of the blockade which is imposed by the forces of infidelity and tyranny.

Pakistani Delegation Signs Cooperation Accord

JN1008162595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1155 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—Asghar Asad Hasan, Pakistani under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Production [title as received] and head of the Pakistani delegation to the Joint Iraqi-Pakistani Committee, left Baghdad today after a four-day visit to the country.

Before departing, the Pakistani delegation today signed a joint cooperation agreement in the fields of industry, agriculture, trade, finance, higher education, health, awqaf, transportation, communications, irrigation, and oil.

Air Violations Protested to Arab League Chief

JN1008163995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0815 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French

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aircraft have violated its airspace, seriously threatening its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter he sent yesterday to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League said that these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace from 21 to 31 July and also carried out 577 hostile sorties, flying from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Iraqi delegate attached to his letter details of these violations and requested that the letter be distributed to the member states to acquaint them with these regrettable practices.

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Closure of Gaza Strip To Continue Until 13 Aug

TA1008181895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure that has been imposed on the Gaza Strip for security reasons will remain in force until 0400 [0100 GMT] on Sunday [13 August]. This was agreed upon in consultations between the prime minister and security elements.

Media Report Details of Peres-'Arafat Taba Agreement

TA1108085595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 11 August in a live report from Taba by political correspondent Udi Segal notes: "Last night, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat provided a list of the issues they discussed. Agreement was not reached on all the issues and if any such understandings were reached, they were merely understandings in principle to facilitate the continuation of the negotiations. On the issue of Hebron, no agreement was reached and talks will continue in the framework of a subcommittee; however, this is the solution that is emerging in general terms: the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will remain in the town to guard the Jewish settlement which will not be evacuated, contrary to the Palestinian demand that the Jews move to Qiryat Arba'. The IDF will secure the main road to the Cave of the Patriarchs but will lower its profile by redeploying some units, thus permitting the Palestinians to hold elections in the town. The Palestinians will also be allowed to form an armed municipal force that be in charge of enforcing civil powers. This is the solution in general terms, it has still not been formulated in detail.

"As for the security regime in the rural areas of Judaea and Samaria referred to in the discussions as Area B: the Israeli position under which the Palestinian Police will coordinate their movements between the villages with the IDF has been accepted. Israel has agreed to define several roads, some of them between villages and some of them hardly ever used by Israelis, in which the Palestinian Police will enjoy free movement without prior permission.

"As for the second phase of the IDF redeployment which will be carried out in three stages and after the elections: it was agreed that there will be no territorial definition of the areas Israel will transfer to the Palestinians at every stage of the redeployment. Israel is prepared to give 'Arafat more civil powers in this area which is defined in the talks as Area C. Incidentally, this area also contains Israeli settlements and Israeli military areas."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 11 August in a report by David Makovsky and Lamia Lahoud on pages 1 and 22 on the gaps between the Palestinian and Israeli positions on Hebron says: "As of last night, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres — after flying back to Jerusalem for consultations with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin — was insisting that the IDF remain throughout the city.

"But sources said that Israel had agreed that the Palestinian Authority [PA] could deploy 50 'blue' policemen, bearing light weapons, in the city to maintain public order.

"In addition, about 150 unarmed, uniformed PA 'municipal inspectors' would be allowed to help monitor the city. One Palestinian source said the inspectors would carry pistols. The Palestinians would also be allowed to open a police station.

"Finally, a multinational unarmed group — resembling the Temporary International Presence that served a brief and rather unsuccessful stint in the city after the Barukh Goldstein massacre last year — would also return.

"Other compromises struck concerned prisoner releases, IDF-PA coordination on intercity roads, and revenue/user fees for municipal services."

The JERUSALEM POST goes on to say that "Israel still refuses to redeploy from Hebron before Palestinian elections, but has agreed to redeploy from Halhul and other villages in the Hebron region. It has also agreed to Palestinian police stations in the surrounding villages, the sources said."

The paper notes that "sources said donor countries could contribute up to $120 million for drilling equipment to help the Palestinians ease the water problem. It remains unclear if the funds would also be used for defraying desalination costs.

"The other issues that have been resolved include: — The IDF may release as many as 1,200 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners, 800 Fatah prisoners, and 25 women prisoners, sources said. None of the prisoners is being held for the murder of Israelis.

" — PA blue police can travel on intercity roads only with prior coordination with the IDF. Israel will retain 'overriding security' responsibility for non-municipal areas in the territories, while Palestinian blue police maintain public order in most, if not all, of the 460 Arab villages.

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" — Israel will release revenues/user fees for municipal services to the PA, which Palestinians say amount to about $60 million annually.

"It remains unclear whether an agreement has been reached on the eligibility of east Jerusalem Palestinians to run as candidates in the self-rule elections.

"Both Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PA official Faysal al- Husayni said they expected a deal whereby east Jerusalem Palestinians who have a second address in the territories could run.

"It also remains unclear if ballot boxes would be placed in east Jerusalem. One proposal calls for the ballot boxes to be placed in post offices in the city."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 11 August in a related report on page 8 by Gabi Baron and Mikha'el Rozolio adds that "Israel will retain full civilian, and especially military control, in the area made up mainly of Israeli settlements, military installations and the areas between them. Israel will have full freedom to decide where to station military forces in this area, in accordance with its security needs."

Later in the report, YEDI'OT AHARONOT states that "guidelines were set on the elections in the territories, including the system that will enable Palestinians from East Jerusalem to vote. The general target date for holding the elections is sometime toward the end of 1995."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 August in a page A1 report by Yerah Tal reports that an Israeli source said that "the IDF's redeployment in Hebron will not affect the security of the Jewish settlement there. The IDF will control all entrances and exits from the town, as well as the main road, also used by the settlers. A proposal to conduct joint patrols by Palestinian and Israeli policemen is also being considered."

HA'ARETZ notes that "another issue in contention is the transfer of funds to the PA: should the money be transferred to the PA when they receive responsibility for the civil sphere, as 'Arafat is demanding, or only after the PA establishes a body to collect taxes and supervise the funds."

Likud Faction, Labor Members Object to Accord

TA1108094795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat and Tal Shahaf]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud is demanding that the Knesset be summoned for a special debate on the Peres-'Arafat agreement.

At Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu's instructions, faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav last night notified the Knesset speaker that the Likud is demanding that the Knesset be convened at once, even though it is currently in recess. The Likud faction has not yet submitted to the speaker the 30 signatures required to call a special session during recess because it is awaiting the outcome of the meeting between Peres and 'Arafat.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 11 August reports that "the Likud Knesset faction is submitting 30 signatures to the Knesset speaker in a demand to convene a special session of the plenum on Sunday, 13 August, to discuss the 'Arafat-Peres agreement. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu demands that the government reveal all the details of the agreement to the public.

["The coalition is also seeking to convene a special plenum session during the summer recess in order to discuss what it describes as the danger of a civil uprising and the right-wing's incitement which could undermine the rule of law."]

A statement issued by the Likud notes that "the Peres-'Arafat agreement is a realization of the PLO's phased plan to establish a Palestinian state under the Peres-Rabin-Aloni-Sarid aegis."

Knesset Member [MK] Yehoshu'a Matza stated yesterday that the Likud stands by "the settlers fighting for their homes." At the same time, he added, "anarchy and a paralysis of the country through illegal actions within the boundaries of the State of Israel is untenable. The Likud's protest actions are solely directed against the government, and not against the army or the police."

Criticism about the expected agreement has also come from Labor's own ranks, with MK's Avigdor Qahalani and 'Imanu'el Zismann threatening not to support the government's moves pertaining to the Oslo B agreement. They are asking to be allowed to speak their minds in party forums before the plan being discussed in Taba — which they believe will reignite the intifadah and terror — is finalized.

In a polite letter they sent to the prime minister yesterday, Qahalani and Zismann caution that they feel they will once again be put to the test in a Knesset vote. "We plead with you from the bottoms of our hearts: Try to listen to other voices within our party, before you put us to the test of the vote," they write.

The meaning of Qahalani's and Zismann's letter is that Rabin currently enjoys a narrow majority of only 61 MK's who support the Oslo B agreement (42 Labor MK's without Qahalani and Zismann, 12 MK's

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of Meretz, 2 of YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel], and 5 Arabs) — or just 56 Jewish supporters.

Peres Explains Details of 'Oslo B' Agreement

TA1108104395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, by Karmit Gay — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Good afternoon Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good day.

[Gay] I believe you have been working since yesterday without a break.

[Peres] No, I had a two-hour break.

[Gay] So far, we have only reported the list of seven issues on which agreement was reached in the package deal. Perhaps you could clarify things? For example, when talking about the release of Palestinian prisoners, what was agreed upon?

[Peres] We promised the Palestinians that there would be two waves [as heard] of prisoner releases. One wave when the agreement on the interim arrangement is signed. A second group of prisoners will be released on the eve of the Palestinian elections, with the third wave of releases being held within the framework of the permanent arrangement. The third wave is a new development.

[Gay] Has the criteria for the prisoners who are candidates for release been determined — such as the question of whether or not they have blood on their hands?

[Peres] No, we did not discuss that. Those issues will be discussed by the relevant ministerial committee.

[Gay] Does this mean that all the prisoners will be released by the permanent agreement?

[Peres] No. We did not state how many prisoners would be released in each wave.

[Gay] Now, as for the definition of the West Bank rural areas. What was agreed upon in this respect?

[Peres] We agreed that this area would encompass most of the villages, approximately 420 in number, with the administration being handed over to the Palestinian Authority [PA] and security remaining under Israel's control. There will be very strict instructions which stretch far beyond anything stipulated in the Declaration of Principles [DOP] with regard to our security powers. For example, we retain overriding responsibility [last two words in English] and any movement by the Palestinian Police on roads used by both Palestinians and Israelis requires prior approval and coordination on our part. Clearly, all the settlements remain in place and nothing whatsoever has changed in this regard.

[Gay] What about the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pursuing Palestinian suspects into the villages?

[Peres] We have overriding responsibility [last two words in English] so we have the authority to decide on this.

[Gay] What about the joint committee on water, which is such a vital issue?

[Peres] We did not discuss the water issue. Some matters were left for future discussion, and the water problem is one of them.

[Gay] Do you mean after the agreement is signed or before that?

[Peres] I definitely hope that the issue will be dealt with before the agreement is signed.

[Gay] I understand that Yasir 'Arafat promised to amend the Palestinian National Covenant within two months after the agreement....

[Peres, interrupting] After the convening of the Palestine National Council.

[Gay] Which according to the timetable will take place when?

[Peres] I assume that elections will be held within three or four months, with the Covenant's amendment coming two months after that.

[Gay] The Hebron issue remains unresolved. What can you tell us about the situation now?

[Peres] The meeting at the prime minister's bureau yesterday evening was devoted entirely to the Hebron issue. That was also where I received the authorization to submit new proposals to explain the situation there in order to provide solutions to two issues: that the Jewish settlers be able to remain there without sparking bloody clashes between the two sides. I brought these proposals which the Palestinians found extremely difficult to get used to. I also think that the PA and its chairman are interested in showing their people that they are waging a very tough political struggle over Hebron.

[Gay] Do you think that the proposals you presented will be found acceptable by the Jewish settlers there?

[Peres] We do not have to satisfy them. We have to protect their lives and dignity. I do not know what will satisfy them because the settlers are individuals. We have a Knesset and political parties which are the

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forums for political debate and decisions. We cannot please everyone.

[Gay] What about Yasir 'Arafat's cassettes where he spoke about a jihad. Did you discuss this issue with him?

[Peres] Yes. He interprets this in a different way than we do. He differentiates between a big and a small jihad. However, I am less interested in his explanations. I believe and also know that first of all, 'Arafat, in an official letter to the prime minister, promised to renounce the Palestinian National Covenant, and second, he is actually doing this in practice. For the first time in this century, the Palestinian people's most important organization has declared war on terrorism, not just as lip service but with weapons to back its words. They have already sustained casualties in this war. Last month, two Palestinian officers were killed in the war against terrorism.

[Gay] Nevertheless, in light of the Israeli public's great sensitivity to the issue of jihad I believe that 'Arafat should demonstrate more consideration for our feelings.

[Peres] I agree with you, but I do not write his speeches.

[Gay] Are we close to an agreement in your assessment?

[Peres] Yes, I believe so, and with regard to all the criticism that was leveled against Oslo A [the first part of the Oslo Agreement], it is today impossible for me to find one person who can explain why we spent 25 years in the Gaza Strip. Why did we have to send our reserve soldiers there? Why did we have to risk their lives? Why did we have to let the Jewish settlements there expand while the hatred grew? What did we gain by this? Why did we do it? I believe that many people are grateful that we made the right decision and withdrew from a place where we should not have been.

[Gay] Do you expect a similar sense of gratitude in the wake of Oslo B?

[Peres] Undoubtedly so. Those who live in the past and cannot let go of memories will not be grateful; however, the younger generation and thinking people will be grateful from the bottom of their hearts.

[Gay] What about the people who live in that area and will have to cope with the ramifications of this agreement on a daily basis?

[Peres] What is wrong with this agreement? It guarantees their safety and wellbeing no less than the state of affairs there today?

[Gay] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Peres Interviewed on Settlers' Protests, Taba

TA1008133195 (Internet) Israel Information Service in English 10 Aug 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondents David Gilbo'a and Shlomo Raz on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el on 9 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Gilbo'a] (speaking with FM Peres at Taba). Shalom.

[Peres] Shalom.

[Gilbo'a] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz, also in Taba, is with us on the air. Mr. Peres I want to ask you first regarding what happened on our country's highways in the afternoon and evening. Were you surprised by the success of the settlers yesterday?

[Peres] What did they succeed in doing, in angering the entire public?

[Gilbo'a] Perhaps in disrupting the State's life for an hour or two.

[Peres] That's success?

[Gilbo'a] It was their goal.

[Peres] Is that an achievement? Is it a goal? Is this a state within a state? I must say I wonder at your question. I think they made a mistake, I think one doesn't behave like this in a democratic state, and I do not think it will influence the carrying out of the will of the majority in the Knesset.

[Gilbo'a] That is precisely their argument; after all, they claim the government has no majority, neither in the Knesset nor among the public.

[Peres] Just a moment — are they the State Comptroller? Are they the Knesset? Are they a majority in the Knesset? Are they Supreme Court justices? I altogether do not understand this matter — are there two Knessets? Two parliaments? One in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and one in Jerusalem? This is not acceptable to me. There is one Knesset, and in the Knesset votes are counted, not evaluated, or weighed. Time after time, they have tried to pass a non-confidence vote, and it has failed.

[Gilbo'a] Nevertheless, the Prime Minister is making efforts to talk to the leaders of the settlers, and is speaking with them.

[Peres] We are not angry with Israel's citizens, but that does not mean that, as a result of speaking with them — I don't know what this dialogue is; it's possible to speak about subjects concerning the settlers or their settlements — but whether there is a need

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for a referendum or not, that should be determined by Judaea, Samaria and Gaza [settlers]? Absolutely not! Are negotiations to be conducted, or not — will a group who were never elected for that purpose, determine that? A group that's not a political party, that does not operate in the Knesset, but outside it, on the highways. What do we really want — a state where, one time, there are votes in the Knesset, another time lying down on highways? What kind of thing is this? Where is it customary? We, ourselves, through great confusion and misunderstanding, could destroy the democratic regime. There is no such thing; to conduct policy, one raises one's [voting] hand in the Knesset, one does not lie in the roadway. They are two different things.

[Raz] Perhaps it was a mistake to announce already now that all the settlements remain in....

[Peres, interrupting] Why was it a mistake? It's the truth. First of all, what do you want? That I should say an untrue thing? Altogether, there is a basic misunderstanding here. I saw headlines in today's papers that we agreed to withdraw from most of the West Bank. To withdraw altogether or to change sovereignty — that's a matter for negotiations on the permanent settlement. Today, we are not speaking of dividing sovereignty, of a ceding of sovereignty, or of annexing territories, absolutely not. Today, we are speaking of redeployment in the West Bank, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, and this deployment has two parts: one relates to the area, and that, in reality, is not the area but the population, the populated area from which the Israel Defense Forces will be evacuated, which is a certain part of the territory. Regarding the rest of the territory, most of it, on that, no maps have been drawn, but a timetable has been prepared. That is to say, we shall complete the deployment for the interim settlement, not the permanent-status settlement, within a year and a half, let's say in moves every six months. Specific areas have not been determined, — where, how, nothing, absolutely not. We have already said previously we shall complete this redeployment by the middle of 1997, and that's what will be.

[Raz] But, ultimately, when the I.D.F. [Israel Defense Forces] completes the third stage in the middle of 1997, I understand it will not be present in most of the territory....

[Peres] How do you understand that?

[Raz] I'm asking.

[Peres] No, not so. We have not discussed where the I.D.F. will remain and from where it will redeploy, there is no map.

[Gilbo'a] Mr. Peres, these events of yesterday, how in your view can they — if at all — influence the negotiations between Israel and ....

[Peres, interrupting] They will in no way influence the negotiations. Woe to us if they influence the negotiations. I want to tell you this: We'd have to say that we were obeying the settlers, ending the negotiations and going home — well, what would happen then? Obviously, two things would happen: the intifada would be renewed, and certainly the demographic relationship would continue, until our entire state would wake up one fine morning and find out that perhaps we retain territory but lost our [population] majority. After all, you can't just have discussions every morning according to your mood. Why are we doing what we're doing? For moral reasons, because we do not want to rule over another people. And for political reasons, for we do not want to lose our [demographic] majority in this land. These are fundamental facts for the settlers and all those who oppose us. There is no alternative program, no notion or concept in what they are proposing, just as previously they were intransigent over Gaza. Why did we stay in Gaza for 26 years? For what? No one knows how to explain that — today it just seems ludicrous.

[Gilbo'a] But aren't there Israeli settlements in Gaza?

[Peres] So they'll stay — and two of them at least are in a very difficult situation. But I want to clarify again: the final frontiers will be established only in the final-status settlement. There is no change in sovereignty and there won't be any change in sovereignty in the negotiations on the interim settlement. What there is in the interim settlement is two I.D.F. redeployments, one from populated areas to enable them to hold elections, and another to complete the autonomy. Regarding the first redeployment, there are Zones A and B, which are a certain part of the map, not all that large. As for the rest, no maps have been determined, nor will they be until we enter negotiations. What we've said concerns time-periods, which have their own logic. For, after all, in May 1996, according to our commitment, we must discuss the final settlement; then we shall discuss where we stay, where we won't remain.

[Raz] I'd still like to ask you about the interim settlement, because you mentioned concrete details of this negotiation; when will it end, when will the signing ceremony take place?

[Peres] Look, there are not a few gaps [differences] between us. We are working very hard and you know what's happening. Let me tell you this rather frankly, I think our public in the country also needs to know, the Israeli team is not talking to the press. Whatever is published in the press comes from the Palestinian team,

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and a really strange situation is being created here. I read this morning's papers in Israel; note who gave the information — not we, because to the best of my understanding when there is a negotiation we should not undertake it in public. But I must also warn the public, or you must warn the public, that the information handed out is one-sided, from the Palestinian team, and incidentally a large part of it is from people who are not even present at the talks. I saw some names of those supplying the information, and it was people who were not there during the negotiations; and thus a picture is being created here that is definitely not correct.

[Gilbo'a] No date yet for signing?

[Peres] No, none.

[Gilbo'a] Thank you.

Rabin Reiterates Vow on Golan Referendum

TA1108105495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST (MAGAZINE supplement) in English 11 Aug 95 p 18

["Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin Responds to the Golan Heights Settlers" — POST headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All of the governments of Israel sent the best people to the Golan Heights. We have none better than these pioneers, men of vision, warriors, whose life's work inspires respect and appreciation.

We did not err in sending them to the Golan. We did not err in encouraging them to build homes, raise children, plant vineyards and harvest fruit. This was the right thing, at the right time, in the right place.

With all the respect I have for the settlement movement in the Golan, and I do respect it, this was never the main point; the problem of the Golan Heights was always strictly one of security.

I know every corner of the North — every settlement, every stone. I witnessed and shared the suffering of the settlements which stood brazenly and bravely under bombardment.

We did not capture the Golan Heights in the Six Day War only to see this repeated, and no force in the world will move us even one centimeter in the Golan without total peace, real peace, peace with complete security arrangements. Only true peace will arouse in us a willingness for change.

For many years we held to our political and security beliefs and did not alter them, because the world had not changed and neither had the Arab countries. But one would have to be an ostrich not to notice that over the last few years the world has changed, and so have the Arab countries.

As long as the Syrians refused to recognize the State of Israel's right to exist in peace, there was no room to negotiate with them. As long as Damascus rejected our outstretched hand, we strengthened our military and civilian hold in the Golan, a few dozen kilometers from Damascus.

Syria took the first step toward peace during the Likud's rule by participating in the Madrid Peace Conference. We praised this, and continued on the difficult journey toward peace.

We observe signs which testify to Syria' readiness to be a partner in the journey toward peace. Peace with Syria is still far off, but we have no intention of ignoring these signs. We will not return to the days of "there's no one to talk to," we will not return to the days of "the world is against us." We are moving forward.

People of the Golan: I accompanied you through a generation, in both your finest hours and painful moments. I watched as you blossomed, and was a loyal partner on your path. I always told you my opinions, straight and honest. My opinion was, and still is today, that there is a large degree of security risk involved in any territorial concession to Syria. A great deal hangs in the balance — peace, security — but we will not sign any peace agreement with Damascus unless we are convinced that our security is guaranteed.

It is my ultimate responsibility as prime minister, our responsibility as a government, to the people of Israel, to examine every possibility for peace.

Over the years we searched for a clue. Now, for the first time since the establishment of the State of Israel, there is a chance for peace with Syria. Peace with Syria is, in large measure, the key to a comprehensive peace. I want to ask you, my friends in the Golan Heights: What should we do? Not try? Not make the effort to arrive at peace? To reject outright the possibility of putting an end to war?

The government decided to take a chance — a chance that did not exist in the past — for peace with Syria.

If proceeding toward peace is a change in position then yes, I have changed my position. But we will not abandon, God forbid, the security of the State of Israel. We will add peace to it.

In order to reach a peace treaty with Syria, we must reach simultaneous agreement on four principles which cannot be separated.

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The first principle is the border of peace in the treaty. As of today, there is no agreement between us and Syria as to the location of this border.

The second principle is a timetable for implementing the principles of the treaty. In other words, the timetable for withdrawal to the peace border, the stages for withdrawal, full realization of normalization and execution of security arrangements.

It is our intention that the full realization of normalization will be tested over three years.

"Normalization" is life itself. This is the peace of which we dreamed, peace in its day-to-day embodiment: an Israeli embassy in Damascus, a Syrian embassy in Jerusalem.

The fourth principle is the most important in any peace treaty with Syria: security arrangement. This includes a mutual reduction in armed forces; asymmetrical demilitarization of territories; deployment of multinational forces in the measure which exists today in Sinai, including American forces, like there are today in Sinai; warning stations; periodic inspections and more.

Let me once again stress: only security arrangements which will put us at ease will allow us to take the risks inherent in withdrawal from the Golan.

At this stage, regarding all four of the principles described above, there is dissent between Israel and Syria, and the gaps are still wide and deep.

I am aware of the claims against us: "This isn't what you told us on the eve of the elections." They say: "We didn't think it would be like this." During the elections for the current Knesset, the Labor Party's platform stated explicitly that we favor territorial compromise, including (one) with Syria. Therefore, withdrawal from the Golan Heights is part of the government's declared policy. Even so, when we realized that this may involve a substantial withdrawal, we suggested that this be determined by referendum.

What could be more democratic than this? What could be fairer than this?

I repeat my promise that if, in any case, we need to pay with a substantial withdrawal for a peace treaty which the government approves, we will present it in full detail to every citizen of the State of Israel and we will ask the nation: Are you in favor of this peace or not? We will not sign a peace treaty with Syria before asking the nation in a referendum.

Right-Wing Movement Leader on Protest Acts

TA1008161795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Aug 95 p B2

[Interview with Rabbi Beni Elon, "one of the Zo Artzenu movement leaders," by 'Amos Har'el on 8 August; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Elon] Our new campaign vies for public opinion just as our other activities did, but this time we are not fighting for sympathy, but for something more specific. Even members of the public who do not identify with us, or those who do not even like us, should understand that there is an alternative in the form of elections. Even people who do not share my views can tell Rabin: "Enough is enough. You cannot pass snap decisions three years into your rule based on the vote of Darawshah, al-Sani', or Goldfarb." Personally, I will accept the results of the elections whatever they are. Those are the rules of the game as I play it, being a member of a minority that is rejected by the majority of the nation — although I no longer feel that way. Today I feel the majority of the Jewish people are with me.

I fear that if 'Arafat is fooling us all, the situation will deteriorate to a point where the existence of the State of Israel will be in jeopardy. We cannot overlook that risk. If my son asks me some day: "Why did you not do something?" I will not have to say: "Because of democracy. I knew I was right, I shouted that I was right, but I respected Darawshah and Goldfarb, so I played along." I prefer to go to jail so as to prove to myself that I exhausted every venue of protest.

There are naturally moral limits, which have nothing to do with the law: I will never dare kill or injure an innocent Arab, or steal from one. In this case, I am not guided by the law, which is the outcome of a random majority of 61 legislators and a coalition bloc. My own limit is the point where a majority of the people are opposed to me. The reference to the ostensibly sacred law neither threatens me nor makes any impression on me in the current situation.

As far as I am concerned, it is immoral for Arabs to have power to determine the most fateful decisions of the Israeli people. However, I do not aim to harm their civil rights. I realize this may imply a harm to constitutional rights, but that is something I am willing to accept. I will not forgive myself if I sacrifice Eretz Yisra'el by behaving as a democratic gentleman.

[Har'el] You are taking a risk by moving your protest into the Green Line.

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[Elon] Some of our friends warn us that we are shooting ourselves in the foot, but this is our way to express our plight. [passage omitted]

[Har'el] You speak of maintaining an ongoing struggle, but meanwhile Peres and 'Arafat may clinch a deal in Taba.

[Elon] Since the Oslo agreement was also signed by a minority government, the signature date of a sham document does not bind me. Netanyahu and others phrase it more prudently: They say the document does not bind us because the Palestinians are violating the agreement. They do not have the guts to give up their place at the center of the political map by saying, as I do: "We will not honor it because it was made by a minority government." Oslo agreement also says the cities will be evacuated in June 1994, and yet the date was changed. The critical moment is the evacuation of army bases, and that is what the rabbis' edict was referring to. We will fight relentlessly to prevent it.

[Har'el] Is the right wing looking forward to another massacre, hoping another killer like Goldstein will stop the process?

[Elon] It will not stop the process. Rabin and Peres are running amok today. Any terror attack, not just Goldstein, used to stop the process in the past while now you could see how Rabin reacted to the bombing in Ramat Gan. Beyond my moral objection to it, it will not stop the process even in terms of tactics. Goldstein delayed the negotiations by three months, but he also caused the establishment of the Samaria and Judaea Police District. Another Goldstein-style massacre today will dissolve the opposition and generate an atmosphere of despair among the settlers and the entire country. [passage omitted]

[Har'el] You speak of Martin Luther King as a model to be imitated. It does not conform with your demand to deny Arabs their right to affect the vote.

[Elon] My theory conforms with the concept of a Jewish democratic state. I am pro-American in the sense that I want a democratic state, but I am not pro-American in the sense that I am ethnic-oriented and that I want a Jewish state. I concede there is no such thing anywhere in the world. That is why, culturally, I am against the Americanization of the State of Israel, against the Meretz slogan of a "democratic state," which omits the word "Jewish."

[Har'el] Your camp never made an argument against the Arab vote during the Lebanon War or during the evacuation of Yamit.

[Elon] It was irrelevant then. Ninety percent supported the moves. Everyone wants to keep silent about things I say out loud. Rabin himself said he was not taking me into the coalition. I am not ashamed to say: We have to be honest with them. They cannot be misled into thinking the country belongs to all its citizens, and some day they will stop singing the national anthem. It will be best for all of us if we honestly tell the Arabs: These are the rules of the game. No one is going to harm you. You all have a right to vote. Yet the basic laws should stipulate that this is the Jewish people's state, and that there can therefore be no legal government in Israel unless it is based on a Jewish majority.

[Har'el] For years you have been described as moderate. What are you doing here in the protest tent together with a Kahana follower who used to sell key rings with Goldstein's picture?

[Elon] I am flattered to be described as moderate. I do not know whether the description is valid. I am not a Kahana follower. I disagree with them on many things. Yet when Yitzhaq Shamir dealt with them, he had a mandate, while Darawshah does not. In the current situation, I can hardly blackball right-wing factions, but I do not condone immoral attitudes.

[Har'el] Including gunshots fired near al-Husayni's house?

[Elon] You have been misinformed. The police released all the detainees for a good reason. Even a police officer testified in court that stopping in some Jerusalem streets presents a mortal danger. It is a shame. Those who fired there were in mortal danger. If they decide to charge me, I will present my arguments. I am not apologizing. There should be mounted and foot deployment in every street in Jerusalem.

[Har'el] Will today's operation [of blocking traffic inside the Green Line] stop the process? How far will the struggle go?

[Elon] It will go as far as a nonviolent civil uprising. Civil uprising will cause us to lose support — a lot of fine NRP [National Religious Party] members will be shocked — but the second, third, and fourth ripples of the struggle will cause such a shock in Israeli society that only elections will be able to calm it.

Papers Call For 'Controlled' Settlement Campaign

TA1008144195 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 10 Aug 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Government's Accountability"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The numerous demonstrations held at road intersections and the encampments built

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in various locations in Judaea and Samaria represent a new stage in the public arena. Beyond the significance of these moves, there is also the fact that large public sectors are involved in these extensive activities, including some new figures who have not featured in public struggles to date.

The most recent development proves beyond any doubt that there is mass opposition to the government's policy on withdrawal from Eretz Yisra'el and a fear that the security of 140,000 people beyond the "Green Line" will be neglected and that all inhabitants of Israel will be put in various kinds of danger. The massive participation in this protest was not due to a desire to violate the law, clash with the police, or disrupt life in the country; it reflected a genuine concern as well as profound frustration.

The method of exacerbation is to be regretted, as is the very emergence of new organizations whose leaders fail to comprehend all the aspects of their moves. There is a very tangible danger of escalation and a loss of control. The problem does not lie in the inconvenience caused to the people or in disrupted road traffic. This is not an excessive price to pay for Eretz Yisra'el and the safety of the Jews living in it. If people have been subjected to unnecessary suffering, it is regrettable, and their forgiveness should be sought, but those who suffered have to try to understand the background and the circumstances. The true problem is the loss of control.

Yet the onus for the escalation lies with the government and the prime minister. The pursuance of the government's current policy and the deterioration reflected in the talks with the PLO are the causes of the profound rage expressed by the people. Yitzhaq Rabin could influence the developments had he shown any consideration at his meeting with the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza leaders. Yet not only did he refuse their elementary demand to freeze the implementation of the Oslo agreement and the talks with the PLO and to seek the people's approval either through a referendum or early elections, he also rejected some practical demands concerning the everyday safety of Jews in Judaea and Samaria and the arrangements pertaining to state lands in those areas. This contributed to a profound concern among the residents that their safety was being neglected.

By taking that attitude, the prime minister became accountable for the deterioration caused by the escalation of the struggle and for the risk of its getting out of control. Nevertheless, parliamentary movements that believe in Eretz Yisra'el and the security of Jews living there, as well as the heads of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, should do everything to ensure that the campaign is supervised and controlled, and that no acts which will later be regretted, God forbid, are carried out.

Two IAF Personnel Killed in F-15 Crash

TA1008162995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1549 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Israel Air Force [IAF] officers, a pilot and a navigator, were killed this morning when an F-15 jet crashed in the Negev. Their families have been notified. The plane was part of a training formation of F-15 jets when it suddenly caught fire and pieces of the aircraft fell off. The jet flew out of control, flipped over, and crashed on the ground. Its two crew members did not bail out and crashed together with the plane.

IAF Commander Herzl Budinger told our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that an inquiry commission has already determined that the crash occurred after birds collided with the plane's engine. Apparently, the explosion was caused by a bird being sucked in by the plane's engine. The fact that the crew members did not bail out in time indicates that they lost control over the aircraft almost immediately. The IAF commander noted that planes are forbidden to fly below 3,000 feet during the birds' migrating season. At this time of year, there are no migrating birds and the F-15's were therefore flying at an altitude of 1,000 feet. It will be possible to determine the full circumstances of the disaster only after the plane's black box is deciphered.

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'Udayy, Delegation Discuss Defections With King

JN1008172995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today an Iraqi delegation comprising 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, adviser at the Iraqi presidency; 'Udayy Saddam Husayn [son of Saddam Husayn]; and a number of Iraqi officials.

During the meeting, they discussed recent developments concerning the arrival of a number of Iraqi officials in Jordan, and their request for asylum.

Attending the meeting were Marwan al-Qasim, Royal Court chief; Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

The Iraqi delegation left Amman today for its country.

King Asked To Help Solve 'Family Crisis'

JN1108131495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty-four hours after the announcement that Saddam Husayn's son-in-law General Husayn Kamil Hasan has defected to Jordan accompanied by his family, including two of Saddam's daughters and Hasan's brother, Colonel Saddam Kamil Hasan, Jordan considers any violent Iraqi reactions unlikely because of the dire consequences this action would have on the Iraqi regime in case Jordan decides to close its border, which is the primary Iraqi outlet to the outside world.

A Jordanian official said that Jordan's decision to receive and protect the Iraqi group is aimed at alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people who have suffered enough and it is time to effect a change in the situation there.

'Udayy, Saddam's eldest son, accompanied by Saddam's adviser 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, met with the Jordanian monarch yesterday in an attempt by the Iraqi regime to find a way out of this serious impasse.

A Jordanian official said that the meeting was formal and 'Udayy did not ask for the return of the defectors but appealed to the king to help solve what he described as the family crisis. 'Udayy tried to meet with his sisters and General Husayn Kamil but they refused to meet with him.

Experts on Iraq believe that Saddam will find a way of bending with the storm that has shaken his seat of power—a storm which is the most serious since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq in August 1990.

Foreign Minister on Arrival of Saddam's Family

JN1108080795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Aug 95 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said he sees no reason for tension in relations with Iraq as a result of Jordan's decision to grant refuge and care to the two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, their husbands Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, and director of the Military Industrialization Organization; his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil Hasan, deputy commander of the Republican Guard; and Major 'Izz-al- Din Muhammad Hasan, their children, and companions.

He added that what happened was related to a group of individuals who were the closest to the Iraqi regime and who willingly decided to leave their country and seek refuge in this Hashemite Arab country, Jordan. We have nothing to do with the justifications and reasons that led them to leave Iraq and their choice to stay in Jordan, not to seek political asylum in it.

The foreign minister said His Majesty King Husayn received 'Udayy, son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, accompanied by [Saddam's adviser] 'Ali al-Majid for only 10 minutes, and discussed the subject of the arrival in Jordan of a number of Iraqi officials. His majesty stressed that we granted them protection and care, and we respect their decision to choose Jordan as a residence.

Meanwhile, AL-DUSTUR has learned from the Iraqi delegation's sources that Rana and Raghad, daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and their husbands Husayn Kamil Hasan and Saddam Kamil Hasan, and a number of ranking companions who arrived in Amman will hold a news conference within the coming hours or days to explain the accumulated reasons that forced them to seek care and residence in Jordan. These reasons are related to the deterioration of conditions in their country, and because these officials who are close to the Iraqi regime can no longer tolerate what is taking place in Iraq.

Official Says Defections Show 'Time for Change'

NC1108125195 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Aug 11 (AFP)—Jordan granted asylum to two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and their husbands, both former

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top aides, to help push for change in the Baghdad leadership, officials here said on Friday [11 August].

"The Iraqi people have suffered enough," a Jordanian official who requested anonymity told AFP. "It is time for a change to take place in Iraq to put an end to the suffering of its people who have endured too much because of its leaders," he said.

He said Amman's decision to shelter former industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan, regarded in Amman as Iraq's deputy leader, and other members of Saddam's family was made with this in mind.

"We are for every development which might help the Iraqi people get out of this impasse," he said. [passage omitted]

Writer on Comments on Iraq's 'Obstinacy, Pride'

JN1108094495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 Aug 95 p 28, 22

["Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "What Iraq Needs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When "even" Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan is forced to leave his first homeland with his family and some of his relatives to live in his second homeland where he is welcome, this means that conditions in Iraq have become truly intolerable and that the beloved country of the two rivers, the symbol of Arab glory and civilization, is living a real tribulation with all the meanings of this word.

No one can say that Husayn Kamil Hasan was not loyal to his homeland, party, and the regime in which he grew up. No one can level at this man even one of the charges we have been used to hearing over the past two decades whenever any of the Iraqi leaders was forced to quit his post.

Appeasement in such cases is impermissible, and if we really feel the suffering of the Iraqi people, we have to state facts away from the intimidation of those who have advance positions. The fact is that the Iraqi people are paying for the mistakes that could have been averted and for obstinacy that is far from the spirit of the age in which we live and is far from understanding the equations of global conflicts while we are heading toward the 21st Century.

Following the Hiroshima and Nagasaki disaster 50 years ago, the Japanese emperor courageously announced his country's unconditional surrender to the allied forces. That position, which was like swallowing poison for the Japanese people, marked the beginning of that great economic victory and progress we see today.

Had the Japanese emperor remained adamant and had his pride led him to go further in his mistakes and not to distinguish between his personal dignity and the interests of an entire nation, certainly the darkness of defeat would have lasted for more years, the disaster of the Japanese people would not have ended so quickly, and the progress realized by this people would not have been realized in such a manner.

After the Japanese emperor admitted defeat, he directed his efforts to build the Japanese individual in a sound manner. A unique democracy was launched in which the man felt his humanity, so he accomplished amazing achievements in such a short time. The result was this real progress.

Iraq should first of all admit facts. It should give the great Iraqi people their freedom and place the people's interests above individual interests and pride. This is the way to build the human being. Swimming against the tide conflicts with the facts and requirements of the present age.

Foreign Minister To Visit Saudi Arabia

JN1108100095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 Aug 95 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will leave for Saudi Arabia within the next few days carrying a written message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. The message deals with the recent positive developments in the Amman-Riyadh relations, efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and liquidate the legacy of the Gulf War, and with a new chapter in relations based on frankness and joint interests to serve the two peoples and the Arab and Islamic nations.

Al-Kabariti visited Saudi Arabia last month at the invitation of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and met with a number of senior officials.

Observers in Amman talk of a visit to Amman, the first in several years, by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal following al-Kabariti's visit. Observers also say that the new Saudi ambassador to Jordan will be named by next month at the latest.

Al-Kabariti on Saudi, Kuwaiti Ties, Iraq

JN1108040295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
10 Aug 95 p 23

["Text" of interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by unidentified correspondent in Am-

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man; date not given — published by the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH on 9 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SIYASAH] What are the results of your visit to Riyadh and what are the prospects for reviving your ties with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Kabariti] My visit to Riyadh was an important step on the road to confidence building and achieving Arab solidarity. It is on these two issues that our ability to face challenges, seize opportunities, and advance toward the future, depends. The political wisdom that has always characterized Saudi policy and the climate of fraternity and amity with which I was surrounded by His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and my brother His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal gave me the opportunity to conduct an in-depth dialogue. We concluded that principles, interests, and reason dictate that we should work for better and stronger future ties that can develop and grow in a manner compatible with the history of relations between the Hashemite and Saudi families, the two fraternal peoples, and the facts of geography. Jordan is the western neighbor of fraternal Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia forms a strategic depth and strong backup for Jordan.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal informed me of the Saudi Government's desire to name an ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to promote contacts and to revive old agreements that allow the imports of Jordanian goods and agricultural produce.

For our part, we will take all measures which we think could promote and facilitate contacts between the two peoples. This is because the relationship between the two peoples and their interests are what govern our official policies.

I have high hopes that the coming days will witness a great development in our ties. We will facilitate and contribute to the success of the mission of the new ambassador. We look with optimism for other meetings shortly, God willing, which we hope will be crowned by a summit between the leaders of Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

[AL-SIYASAH] Your Excellency the Minister: What do you have to say to the people and government of Kuwait? What steps is Jordan prepared to take to reassure the people and government of Kuwait?

[Al-Kabariti] We tell the Kuwaiti people and government that the Kuwaiti flag is still fluttering high on the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman despite all the ordeals and hardships. This flag is a political witness that Jordan has never condoned, and will continue to reject, invasion, injustice, coercion, and violence, whatever their justifications and purposes. We tell the Kuwaiti people: When we approach you, it is because we are motivated by our feeling of fraternity. When we try to talk to you, we use a language of cordiality and amity and the mentality of a brother who wants to reunite us all to enable us to speak to each other with the language that unites us, instead of bragging about the language that divides us. The alternative to close ties, contacts, and integration is a consolidation of estrangement, hatred, and fear, which we do not want. The sovereignty of Kuwait is safeguarded. We hope that the natural political expression of this will be shortly realized when the Jordanian flag is hoisted over our embassy in Kuwait.

[AL-SIYASAH] What is Jordan's position on the present situation in the Gulf?

[Al-Kabariti] The situation in the Gulf is something that is decided by the Gulf people for themselves. We understand this. What we aspire for is the return of a strategic outlook and a comprehensive stability. This can only be achieved through cooperation, standing together, and openness between the Gulf and the Arab capitals by showing greater understanding, love, and amity. These are the pillars of future action that is based on mutual interests and security.

[AL-SIYASAH] Kuwait believes that Jordan has not fully supported the international legitimacy resolutions, particularly those on the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border and Kuwaiti prisoners.

[Al-Kabariti] Opinions are sometimes only partially true, while others tend to ignore facts altogether as a result of certain emotions or psychological factors. We are aware of this. However, by claiming that Jordan has failed to fully observe the international legitimacy resolutions, one is deliberately disregarding the obvious fact that our economic problems are due to our full compliance with Security Council resolutions on the embargo on Iraq.

Our humanitarian stands, which seek to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, who are subjected to the ugliest human rights violations as well as threats to their security, territorial integrity, and sovereignty, do not conflict with our political stands. We condemn and categorically reject invasion, violence, and coercion as a political means to achieve political objectives. We, on the other hand, commended the positive and significant steps taken by Iraq, particularly its recognition of the borders of sisterly Kuwait and its cooperation with the Special Commission. We also called for full abidance by all relevant international resolutions and for solving the issue of prisoners and missing Kuwaitis, considering it a central issue of great humanitarian significance. We did not fail to support all efforts seeking to secure the release of prisoners.

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These are our stands, so where did we fail to carry out our duty. Perhaps this might be a good opportunity to assert our firm positions, through AL-SIYASAH, and confirm our compliance with all relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

[AL-SIYASAH] There are those in Kuwait who think that Amman has strategic relations with Iraq and that it is not prepared to abandon them for the sake of the Gulf states.

[Al-Kabariti] Yes, we do have significant economic relations with Iraq. We obtain oil from Iraq at a very low price in order to satisfy our energy needs. Moreover, after the closure of Arab markets to Jordanian exports, Iraq became the largest commercial market for Jordanian goods allowed by the UN resolutions, in addition to the fact that Iraqi still owes Jordan a large debt. All this establishes a fact that cannot be ignored. The people's interests and the country's economy are a responsibility that should be shouldered bravely. We hope to find future trade opportunities in Arab markets.

We don't want people to think that our relationship with one country is necessarily at the expense of another. We do not view things from this angle. We seek balanced and normal ties with the Arab states in general, and special and distinguished relations with the Gulf states in particular. Kuwait was, and will always be, a sisterly state with which we share interests. Kuwait has previously extended all kinds of direct and indirect support to the Jordanian economy. We hope to restore past relations.

[AL-SIYASAH] How are relations with Baghdad now?

[Al-Kabariti] Our relations with Baghdad are normal. As for trade relations, I have just explained them.

[AL-SIYASAH] What do you think of what is happening in Iraq and of the Iraqi people's ordeal while facing hunger, embargo, and absence of democracy?

[Al-Kabariti] Iraq is a state whose population will rise to 25 million by the turn of the century. If the embargo continues, it will culminate in great malice and hatred, in addition to the possibility of fragmentation. We have said on several occasions that a weak and fragmented Iraq will be much more dangerous than a unified and strong Iraq that plays its natural role in the Arab world and within the framework of international and Arab legitimacy.

As for the system of government, it is not our concern, and we have no right to interfere in it. Such matters are determined by the Iraqi people, and we accept what they accept for themselves. The tragedy of the Iraqi people is grave and serious. It undermines their dignity, which is part of the dignity of all Arabs. This situation should not continue, nor should it be allowed to aggravate. Otherwise, the price will be our own Arab security and stability.

[AL-SIYASAH] Are you seeking reconciliation with the Gulf states in earnest or simply because of the economic crisis?

[Al-Kabariti] We are more than earnest and we have succeeded in this regard with most of the Gulf states in addition to other Arab states. This has nothing to do with the economic crisis. Our national and pan-Arab principles have been one with our interests. They are the basis, the guidelines, and the springboard. In fact we never fought others and we never fought our battles by using others. We fight to win the confidence of all our brothers and friends and hope for a positive response to our serious approach. We hope that we will be united by interests and strategies and not by emotions, illusions, or hard feelings.

[AL-SIYASAH] How do you describe your relations with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad?

[Al-Kabariti] These are relations of brotherhood, cordiality and respect. I am confident that he makes good efforts for reconciliation and I am eager to maintain and promote these relations. We admire and appreciate his long experience and astuteness in Arab and international diplomacy.

[AL-SIYASAH] Can you inform us of your talks with their Highnesses Princes Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Sa'ud al-Faysal?

[Al-Kabariti] We held serious, frank, and brotherly talks which were successful by all standards. I appreciate the warmth of their reception and hospitality and their sincere intentions and high aims.

[AL-SIYASAH] Do you expect to pay a similar visit to Kuwait?

[Al-Kabariti] I wish to visit all the Arab states and to succeed in building bridges of trust, love, and brotherhood with all the Arab states. Kuwait is a fraternal state and we look forward to restoring brotherly ties with it and I will be honored to visit Kuwait at the appropriate time. We hope that the Kuwaiti brothers will visit Jordan and look forward to effective Kuwaiti participation in the Amman economic conference.

[AL-SIYASAH] Did the Yemeni president have anything to do with the mediation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Kabariti] We respect and appreciate Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who believes in the need

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for joint Arab action and in preparing the Arab future on strong, clear, and frank, basis. He also believes in solving differences through dialogue, negotiations, and mediations among brothers and within the Arab house. He is trying sincerely to clear the Arab atmosphere, and we note with respect and admiration his many successes in this regard.

[AL-SIYASAH] How do you view the issue of Gulf security and the prevention of the 1990 events?

[Al-Kabariti] What happened was a mistake and a sin that should not be repeated under any circumstances. Differences may not disappear from the Arab atmosphere, but solving these differences must remain within the framework of dialogue, compromise, and concessions. Shedding Arab blood is entirely impermissible and we have reiterated this time and again. We will continue to adhere to dialogue and to stand against those who favor threats and violence.

[AL-SIYASAH] Do you expect Iraq to be angry because of your rapprochement with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait?

[Al-Kabariti] Our rapprochement with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and all Arab countries is dictated by our interests and principles. This also serves Arab solidarity and the restoration of inter-Arab ties. Therefore, this should be welcomed by all the Arabs. Who wants reconciliation and solidarity should work for this and must not create conditions preventing their realization. Who wants a solution and does not work for it lacks either credibility or courage. We have credibility and courage. Our slogans, logic, and language do not change and we will not concede our independent decisionmaking. Our main concern is the future and security of inter-Arab relations.

Papers Comment on Interview

JN1108075295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman AL-RA'Y and AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 10 August comment editorially on Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti's statements to the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH. The two papers say the statements are in keeping with Jordan's policy rejecting aggression and advocating Arab accord and reconciliation.

Under the headline "Our Political Principles are Moral Principles," AL-RA'Y recalls that Jordan has pursued an "unchanged course" despite all "turbulent changes" in the Arab world. The paper says that al-Kabariti's statements prove Jordan's constant policy of seeking Arab accord and solidarity. The paper adds: Despite the post-Gulf war economic hardship, we have not shifted from the principles in which we believe. We reject invasion, injustice, and violence irrespective of their justifications and aims. We extend a hand to the brothers in the entire Arab world. We will remain committed to the resolutions of the international legitimacy from a position of strength and conviction, rather than from weakness or fear."

AL-RA'Y adds: "Our country has extended a hand to its brothers in Saudi Arabia, believing that history and geography necessitate that our relations be good. Jordan also extends a hand to Kuwait, believing that the interests of the two peoples necessitate rapprochement rather than alienation. At the same time, Jordan will continue to extend a hand to our kinfolk in Iraq and seek to ease their suffering as they are subjected to the ugliest human rights violations, without interference in any of Iraq's internal affairs. This is because the relationship between the ruler and his people in any Arab country is the responsibility of the people and their ruler in each particular country."

The paper concludes: "Al-Kabariti's statements reaffirm the constant principles of the Jordanian policy, from which Jordan has never budged. More than anything else, these political principles are moral principles in which we believe and by which we will continue to be guided."

Under the headline "Toward Healthy Jordanian-Kuwaiti Relations," AL-DUSTUR says in its editorial that in the "first ever" interview with a Jordanian official published by Kuwaiti papers, Foreign Minister al-Kabariti stressed that "Jordan did not support the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990, and that Jordan has maintained its principled position rejecting all forms invasion, injustice, annexation, force, and violence irrespective of their justifications."

After stating that this has been a constant Jordanian policy, AL-DUSTUR says that Jordan, as ever, views Kuwait as a "sisterly state with common supreme Arab and bilateral interests with Jordan, just like any other Arab state."

The paper adds: "On the other hand, Jordan views its relations with Iraq as an inseparable part of its wider relations with all Arab states. These relations are based on Jordan's principled stands and national interests. Therefore, we believe that the existing Jordanian-Iraqi relations serve Arab solidarity and constitute a bridge for restoring confidence among the sisterly Arab capitals."

In conclusion, AL-DUSTUR views al-Kabariti's statements to the Kuwaiti press as "yet another link in the chain of inter-Arab relaxation," as recently indicated in statements made by Arab League Secretary General 'Is-

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mat 'Abd-al-Majid and Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Paper Cites 'Initiative' on Arab Reconciliation

JN1108062095 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 10 Aug 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will make shuttle tours to many Arab capitals in order to clear the Arab atmosphere shortly before the convening of the Amman economic summit.

Al-Kabariti's shuttle tours will focus on achieving Jordanian-Saudi reconciliation and promoting Jordan's relations with the Arab states in North Africa.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' has also learned that His Majesty King Husayn will send messages to many Arab leaders to explain the Jordanian Government's position on the Arab and regional developments. King Husayn's message to King Fahd will focus on Jordan's position on the Gulf war and his majesty's efforts to heal the Arab rift as well as the true Jordanian position on this war. Tunisia and Morocco will be two major legs of al-Kabariti's moves which will later include Syria and Lebanon.

Moreover, AKHBAR AL-USBU' learned that the Jordanian Government has prepared an integrated plan for Arab reconciliation. The plan includes lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq in coordination with other international parties, led by the United States, as well as consolidating bilateral relations between the Arab states and keeping Israel, in the current phase, away from any regional effort in order to ensure the success of the first practical Jordanian initiative on the Arab and international level.

Responsible Jordanian sources said King Husayn began an official move to implement this initiative. He visited Qatar and Egypt, and he now plans to visit Tunisia, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, he sent messages to many Arab leaders through Jordanian ambassadors. His majesty also made telephone calls to a number of Arab leaders to render the Jordanian initiative a success.

The sources added that Iraq agreed in principle on the Jordanian initiative and expressed readiness to support it. Iraq will dispatch an important personality to Amman for this purpose.

The sources also said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ordered speeding up the preparation of special laws that will secure political pluralism, democracy, and respect for human rights. However, he linked issuing these laws to ending the blockade and regaining the Iraqi territories that were placed under UN supervision on the pretext of protecting the Shiites and Kurds, particularly after the Iraqi opposition failed to unify its positions and hold an expanded congress.

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Al-Ahmar Reiterates Country's Commitment to Peace

JN1008172195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning met at the premises of the Ba'th Party National Command participants in the sixth camp of the Arab nationalist youths, the Basil al-Asad Course.

The assistant secretary general began by relaying the greetings of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president, to the Arab youths taking part in the camp, as well as his best wishes for their Arab nationalist endeavors. He also relayed to them the greetings of the party command and strugglers, asserting that the leader and leadership take interest in the youth sector and the vigorous role it can play in building the homeland, promoting its capabilities, and continuing the sweeping economic and social development process.

In his talk to them, comrade al-Ahmar underlined the importance of building the individual, and asserted that this is one of the most important components of cultural renaissance. He added that the building of the individual in contemporary Syria, the Syria of al-Asad, is the catalyst for the freedom of the homeland and the nation.

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed Arab and international developments, and developments in the peace process in our region, asserting Syria's firm position on this process, which is grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the principle of exchanging territory for peace. He added that Syria is eager to see this process succeed and achieve its goals to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

The comrade assistant secretary general indicated that Syria, under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, has viewed peace as a strategic option. It is determined to make every possible effort to render the peace process a success, which is contingent upon Israel taking a serious attitude and also upon its adoption of positions that would meet the requirements of peace, comrade al-Ahmar added. He went on to say that Israel must subscribe to UN Security Council Resolutions 242,338, and 425.

At the end of the meeting, comrade al-Ahmar wished Arab youths progress and success in their lives and effective contributions toward upholding the message and opening new vistas for it.

When the meeting came to an end, a documentary on the National Data Center was shown. The documentary identifies its tasks as well as the scientific and technical accomplishments achieved by this center in providing information and verification services for all those who need them for construction and promotion of our quest for modernization.

Press Urges U.S. To Play 'Honest Partner' Role

JN1108101695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In one of its commentaries today, AL-THAWRAH says the Madrid conference revealed Israel's true intentions toward the peace it used to allege. After four years of stumbling talks because of the Israeli position, Israel today stands alone against the current of peace. It refuses to respond to its principles, as the world wants it to do.

The paper notes that throughout 13 rounds of talks, Israel did not offer anything to prove its desire for peace, in spite of all the positive and constructive initiatives put forward by Syria to advance the peace process and break the stalemate caused by Israel because this process collided with Israeli intransigence.

In return and throughout these four years, the Syrian stand has been positive and responsive to the principles and substance of peace. This made the world focus on the importance of the Syrian role in serving the cause of peace that is based on justice and equality, as stipulated in the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that since it agreed to go to Madrid, Syria has stressed that it is determined to fight the battle of peace until the end as a strategic option, stressing its principles and foundations to establish a just and comprehensive peace in all its components without prejudicing any of its rights to land and sovereignty. Syria's peace demands are in harmony with international law and the UN resolutions. In Syria's view, the basis of peace is justice. A just and comprehensive peace in our region is an objective which requires ending occupation and returning rights. This is why Damascus has adhered to these principles right from the very beginning. This has produced an active international response to its concept of peace, which can never be established at the expense of our land or sovereignty, as Israel wants.

The paper concludes: We only hope that Washington will play its role as a full and honest partner in the talks and force Israel to comply with the will of true peace, in line with international legitimacy.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The whole world has acknowledged that Israel obstructed 13

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rounds of negotiations in Washington through its procrastination, delaying tactics, maneuvers, provocation, and flagrant aggression, which reached the extent of organized crime and cowardly assassination of worshipers in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, as well as the savage destruction of hundreds of Lebanese villages and eviction of thousands of the residents of the south. Through all these actions, Israel has obstructed the peace process and tried to empty it of its substance, as part of a studied and prearranged plan that seeks to assassinate the peace process. This was clearly and publicly stated by the former Israeli Government head and Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir. Rabin is today completing this plan. In spite of this, they think that people are stupid to believe that they seek peace.

The paper adds: The leaders of Israel speak about the loss of confidence while the problem lies with them and their stands, conduct, policies, and crude and rough way of handling the peace process. This Israeli policy continues to depend on the logic of force, making gains, imposing hegemony, and dictating impossible conditions, and not the language of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the concept of a just and comprehensive peace which negates occupation, removes injustice, and returns all rights.

The paper concludes: Syria wants peace and is sincerely working for it, but not any peace and not at any price. Peace must be just, comprehensive, and based on the full implementation of international resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. It should also be balanced and equitable and should provide for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. If peace does not meet these conditions, then Syria is not concerned with it. Syria has refused, and will continue to firmly refuse to give any gains to the occupation.

Press: Israel's 'Treacherous Stab' to Peace

JN1108011195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The time game in the peace process is nothing new to Israel. Over the past four years of the peace process, time has been the favorite game for the Shamir government and its successor, the Rabin government.

AL-BA'TH goes on: Rabin's recent remarks on the possibility of putting the peace process off until after the next Israeli elections, reveals his government's lack of serious intentions to complete the peace process. The paper adds that the Rabin government is responsible for the failure of the meeting of two chiefs of staff in Washington recently when it invented the so-called ground warning stations with the aim maintaining Israel's insistence on keeping the peace process in a vicious circle. Therefore, the issue of a ground warning station is decided as far as Syria is concerned and is absolutely rejected. This issue in part and parcel contravenes the framework of understandings which Washington announced in agreement with the Syrian and the Israeli sides.

AL-BA'TH notes that the peace and the respect for international legitimacy are not of the basic elements of Israeli rulers' political strategy. Contradictions have appeared in the Israeli Government's policy. It talks of peace under the pressure of the regional and international conditions and in view of the U.S. desire to end the Middle East struggle. Moreover, Israel's dreams and ambitions are impossible to realize through peace as they were impossible to realize in war. This threw the Israeli Government's stands into confusion.

AL-BA'TH says: Since capitulation is impossible in peace as it was impossible in war, all Israeli attempts to induce Syria to accept something similar to capitulation has been in vain because Syria has not capitulated and will never capitulate. When Syria says it wants peace, it means peace, not capitulation.

AL-BA'TH emphasizes that Syria's leader and the symbol of its patriotism and nationalism, President Hafiz al-Asad, announced in Geneva that Syria opted for peace, that peace is its strategy, and that Syria is prepared for a full peace in exchange for full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. AL-BA'TH held Israel fully responsible for obstructing the peace process.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: President al-Asad asserted during the Army Day that we are confident of our ability to liberate our land and realize just and comprehensive peace that obviates aggression and expansion, that we are one front from the Golan to southern Lebanon.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the Lebanese stand on the peace process. It says: Lebanon, which has experienced Israel's practices of aggression, will not submit to Israeli pressure and be a prey to Israeli blackmail.

AL-THAWRAH notes: While obstructing the track of peace talks, Israel is again trying to undermine the formulas and pillars of the Madrid conference and deviate the talks to the arena of maneuvering away from the Security Council resolutions and the will of the international community.

AL-THAWRAH says: Israel's plots will fail because the cohesion and coordination between Syria and Lebanon

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is now a popular conviction and a desire in addition to being a historical political stand to which the two countries adhere with the aim of securing their national and pan-Arab rights. It is also a national and pan-Arab option for their future.

AL-THAWRAH says: If Israel is serious in seeking peace, it must renounce the deplorable methods of aggression and adhere to the principle of full withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon.

In another article, AL-THWARAH says: It is time Israel realized that maneuvers and blackmail will not be of any use and will not make Syria budge from its firm and principled stands on just and comprehensive peace that would fully secure the return of the land and the rights to their rightful and legitimate owners. AL-THAWARH says that Syria, which joined the peace process from the position of strength and self-confidence and which rejects all compromises on rights and land, will not deal with campaigns of blackmail and confusion. Nobody will be able to influence Syria's comprehensive concept of a solution in accordance with a just and comprehensive peace.

In its comment, TISHRIN says that it is impossible to realize any agreements without full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and without evacuating the Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines. TISHRIN exposes the blackmail game which Israel is playing under so-called security fears; namely that it wants to keep parts of the territories. The paper says Syria exposed these Israeli attempts and regarded full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and the equitable security on both sides of the lines as a basis for the required just peace.

TISHRIN thinks that peace is very far from the region because in Arab eyes, peace is represented by Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and by recognizing Arab rights, especially the legitimate national rights of the Palestine people.

TISHRIN voiced its conviction that by its intransigent and obstructive stands toward the peace process and its failure to respond to the requirements of peace, led by full withdrawal, Israel has dealt a treacherous [ghadirah] stab to the plan to realize a stable and just peace in the Middle East.

Future German-Syrian Economic Ties Reported

JN0808162395 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 8 Jul 95 p 8

[Article by Jihad al-Na'san: "Syrian-German Relations Head Toward Further Development and Improvement in Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian-German relations are heading toward major improvement in the near future. This was repeatedly confirmed by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel during his visit to Syria and at the joint news conference with his Syrian counterpart the day before yesterday. According to the German minister, Syria's economic relations with Germany in particular and the countries of the European Union [EU] in general will witness big, tangible improvement on all levels.

But, despite the German side's assurances about the existence of a real desire to improve relations and the Syrian side's readiness to reciprocate, the fact is, Syria's economic relations with Germany and the EU are closely linked to their political relations. Syrian-German economic relations have often reflected the political relations between the two countries. It is interesting to note that whenever political relations between Germany and Syria were cool, German aid to Syria had been notably low. On the contrary, German-Israeli economic relations had prospered and all doors for economic, scientific, and technical relations had been wide open before Israel.

For further elucidation, the legal framework governing trade between Syria and Germany is the cooperation agreement which was signed with the EU in 1977 granting one-sided preferential treatment to Syria. In addition to this agreement, trade between the two countries is conducted under existing foreign trade rules. Thus, economic relations between the two countries had experienced periods of ups and downs reflecting those political relations. For example, German aid to Syria had receded in the late eighties.

However, before going any further on this aid, it may be useful to review trade relations in recent years. The volume of Syrian imports from Germany had increased from 2.414 billion Syrian pounds [LS] in 1990 to LS3.13 billion in 1991, LS4.006 billion in 1992, LS4.73 billion in 1993, and finally LS5.23 billion in 1994. On the other hand, Syrian exports to Germany amounted to LS1.027 billion in 1990 and LS1.135 billion in 1991. Then they dropped to LS853 million in 1992 and even further to only LS391 million in 1993. In 1994, they rose to LS992 million.

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According to the 1994 figures, Germany was the third largest importer of Syrian goods, preceded only by Japan and Italy. The above figures do not of course include Syrian oil exports to Germany through third countries such as Italy. Syria imports from Germany machines, equipment, cars, electronic equipment, chemical products, etcetera. It exports to Germany oil, cotton, underwear, garments, etcetera.

The major part, or 90 percent, of German aid to Syria consists of a loan. German grants to Syria amount to DM [German Marks] 107.2 million. Syria has also benefited from commodity and other German loans. However, the size of this aid and loans is still modest.

During the meeting which was held with the economic delegation accompanying the German foreign minister and attended on the Syrian side by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, and Minister of State for Planning Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, the discussion dealt with Syrian-German Economic relations. Dr. al-'Imadi impressed upon the German side that Syria is a country of varied resources which enjoys a key geographic position, skilled manpower, and a suitable investment climate. All these, he said, are factors which encourage cooperation in the investment field and improvement of trade, economic, scientific, and technical relations. Dr. al-'Imadi also referred to the existence of a political, secure, and stable regime in Syria. Dr. al-'Imadi pointed out several fields in which Syria and Germany can cooperate, such as fertilizers and textiles.

The meetings have shown the existence of common grounds and a strong desire for mutual cooperation. There was also a German reassurance to link such cooperation with Syria's participation in the Barcelona conference.

The meeting with Syrian businessmen highlighted the urgent need to establish channels which will enable both sides to exchange economic data. Both sides emphasized the need for a data center and the establishment of a council of Syrian and German businessmen.

Investment Council Discusses New Industrial Zones

JN0808161295 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
2 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Damasus (SANA) — The Higher Investment Council held a meeting at 1900 yesterday under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The meeting was attended by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; minister members of the council; governors; head of the Higher Investment Council's bureau; and several directors and advisers.

During this session, the council discussed reports, papers, and memos which were submitted on the new industrial zones which are to be built in several Syrian governorates to absorb new industrial firms and ensure their requirements. The council discussed the priorities which must be considered when approving the establishment of these zones, such as protecting the environment, achieving the required economic and social feasibility, ensuring the needs of industrial firms and their operation, and encouraging investors to establish industries which meet basic needs and are located in areas which need them in order to maintain a balanced general development.

The council also discussed the proposals which were made on formulas for exploiting, managing, organizing, servicing, and supervising these zones and financing their establishment on the basis of a clear, wide perspective.

The council discussed the items on its agenda and the topics submitted, and made the appropriate decisions on them.

Paper Reports on Regional Power Linkup

JN1108110895 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
14 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara (SANA) — At a meeting in southern Turkey yesterday, the energy ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Turkey discussed a $590 million project to link their national grids.

The Anatolian News Agency quoted Syrian Electricity Minister Munib Sa'im al-Dahr as saying at the meeting that Syria intends to invest $2 billion in the field of energy this year and that a power linkup between the five states will help economize power and back development.

Turkish Energy Minister Veysel Atasoy has said that the linkup project which began in 1989 includes the signing of an agreement permitting the transfer of surplus electricity between member states in 1996.

The Turkish minister added that the first phase of the project includes a 400-MW linkup network by 1997 between Turkey and Syria and another 400-MW linkup network between Syria and Iraq. The minister said that a 300-MW linkup network between Syria and Jordan will be implemented at a later stage. He also said that 400 MWs of electricity will be transferred from Jordan to Egypt and 300 MWs from Egypt to Jordan.

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Atasoy said that at a later linkup between Turkey and Iraq, the network between Turkey, Iraq, and Syria will have a capacity of 750 MWs.

The acting Jordanian minister of electricity, Samih Darwazih, told REUTER in Amman before leaving for Turkey that the power linkup between his country and Egypt will cost about $35 million and that the linkup with Syria will cost $75 million.

Turkey intends to spend $35.44 million in 1995 to build power transmission lines from Ataturk Dam in the southeastern part of the country to the Syrian border, provided that they are extended to Damasus in 1997.

Turkey intends also to spend another $10.97 million to build power lines to the Iraqi border in order to link the Turkish and Iraqi networks by the year 2002.

Egyptian Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah said at the meeting that the Islamic Bank for Development and the European Investment Bank are backing the project.

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Afghanistan

Taleban Says Russian Plane Crew May 'Face Trial'

BK1008155395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qandahar, Afghanistan Aug 10 (AFP) — A Taleban religious movement leader said Thursday [10 August] the seven Russian crew of a Russian cargo plane detained here could face trial at an Islamic court.

"The (Taleban) shura (council) will decide whether they will be sent to the court or released immediately," said Mullah Mohammad Rabbani, deputy leader of the Taleban shura.

The full council of the Taleban must meet to decide their fate which may take several days as all shura members are not present in Qandahar, the southern stronghold of Taleban, he said.

In any case the jet and its cargo of "ammunition" stands "confiscated," the Taleban leader said, echoing accusations by the movement, rivals of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, of Russian interference in Afghanistan.

One of the crew is sick with high blood pressure and Mullah Rabbani said he would be released if another Russian takes his place. Otherwise the charter company "is free" to bring a doctor to Qandahar to treat him, he added.

A representative of the compnay, who is here to negotiate the release of the Russians, said he would fly to the company's headquarters in the Persian Gulf to bring a doctor.

The Taleban, who were driven away from the doors of Kabul by the presidential forces in March after a string of impressive territorial gains, are angry over Russian "interference" in Afghanistan.

Saying that the seized plane provided "proof" of this inteference, they are also upset that "arms were being shipped" to a government which is "illegtimate and illegal."

Mullah Rabbani denied allegations that Pakistan could have provided information to the Taleban about the flight and its cargo. "There is no Pakistani involvement," he said.

"We have our secret people in the Kabul government who gave us information about the flight," the Taleban leader said.

Referring to Wednesday's rocket attack on the Afghan capital in which Kabul Radio said 21 people were killed, Mullah Rabbani denied the Kabul government claim that the Taleban were responsible.

The Kabul government engineered the rocketting to "incriminate" the Taleban, he said.

He said the Qandahar airport was open for delivery of normal merchandise and goods but "not military supplies," adding that the compnay had been warned not to deliver military supplies to Kabul, but "still they did it." "It is their mistake."

In Moscow, a Russian foreign ministry spokesman, Mikhail Demurin, quoted by TASS newsagency, denied Thursday any Russian involvement in supplying arms to Afghanistan's government.

"Russia does not carry out arms deliveries in Afghanistan and does not encourage such deliveries," the spokesman said.

"Our line in Afghan affairs is well-known. We do not interf@re in the civil war, and support the resumption of dialogue betw@en the warring parties," the spokesman said.

The official contended that Kabul legally bought in Albania the "sizeable quantity" of ammunition found on board the aircraft. The company then hired a plane from a private Russian company to transport it.

In Pakistan, the country's foreign minister, Asif Ahmad Ali, told a news conference on Wednesday that the Russian plane had 30 tonnes of small arms, ammunition and anti-aircraft weapons.

The minister, who was speaking on return from an Afghan tour during which he visited Qandahar and saw the plane, said the Russian crew were living in "very bad" conditions and that he had requested Taleban to ease their plight.

Two Government Positions Reportedly Captured

LD1008181795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Annasr group of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] told us in a radio communication that two fortified positions of the Kabul administration were captured by the High Coordination Council [HCC] in Golaye Charmazak in Salang on Monday [7 August].

According to another report yesterday, the HCC forces captured another post in this area. The HCC forces continue their advance in the area.

According to a report by the Annasr group of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, the Kabul administration forces

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mounted an attack against the HCC and Hezb-e Eslami forces near the center of Andarab district on Tuesday evening. The HCC forces launched a counterattack and cleared up the area of Daraqala which separates Andarab from Khenjan.

Clearing-Up Operation Under Way; Base Captured

LD1008174995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a clearing-up operation in Samangan Province large areas have been cleared of militia, and Beri base has been captured by the Islamic army forces.

Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that the Islamic army forces, in coordination with the mojahedin of the area, cleared up the areas of Nawabad [words indistinct], in Samangan Province, and captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition. During the course of the operation 12 militia were ousted from the battle front and eight others were captured.

According to a report, during the course of a clearing-up operation by the Islamic forces and mojahedin, the Beri base in Urozgan province has been captured from the Nasr band. As a result of the operation one piece of 75mm artillery, four PK [guns], two mortars, and four DSK [guns] were also captured.

A report from Baghlan Province says that a militia offensive in Bajga area, Andarab district, was repulsed yesterday, and the enemy was forced to retreat after suffering heavy losses. In a meeting held to mark the victory, Major General Mohammad Kabir Andarabi, commander of the 70th Division promised the people that peace and security would be restored in the area. The report adds that Abdollah and Jalal, commanders of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], defected to the Islamic army along with 107 of their armed men today. Similarly, Brigadier General Fazl Haq, one of Dostam's commanders, and 10 of his men defected to the Islamic army along with another 10 men from the center of Baghlan.

India

Daily on U.S. Moves Leading to Another 'Arms Race'

BK1108024895 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Aug 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Arms race again?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The last has not been heard of efforts in the US Senate to make changes in the Pressler amendment to facilitate arms sales and economic aid to Pakistan. Senator Hank Brown's late night bid to introduce a bill to that effect had to be deferred for lack of time, but will come up again. In any event, the move should help to concentrate the minds of India lobbyists on the kind of case being made for a resumption of military assistance to Pakistan. That Mr Brown chose to bring up this issue during discussions on defence matters, rather than a forthcoming debate on foreign affairs, may be indicative of the fact that export promotion on behalf of hard-hit defence suppliers is one reason why some Senators are keen to support a $370 million military package for Pakistan. Mr Brown would like to reward an ally for past services and the Clinton administration categorises Pakistan as a moderate Islamic country with whom relations should be deepened. During her visit to Washington, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto underscored the "unfairness" of denying Pakistan equipment already paid for. Mr Clinton more or less agreed that this irritant could be removed. While there is still strong Senate opposition to supplying F-16s to Pakistan, the administration has been actively lobbying for changes in the law so that other military material can be sold to it.

The US administration is on weak ground in believing that aid would help it exert more influence over Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes. It is arguable that the $5 billion in annual US military and economic aid before the 1990 cutoff enabled Islamabad to divert resources to its nuclear weapons programme. It continues also to develop its missile capability by acquiring M-11 missiles and technology from China, as recent American intelligence reports have established. Washington would be rewarding such behaviour as well as the export of terrorism which Pakistan is engaged in by resuming arms sales and aid at his juncture. While nothing on he scale of past aid is envisaged under the Brown amendment, Pakistani purchases of the P3 Orion and other equipment are tended to give it aerial and naval advantages. American leaders should be left in no doubt that this will lead to a new arms race in the subcontinent.

Impact of Enron Move on Foreign Investment Viewed

BK1008081095 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 7 Aug 95 p 4

[Editorial: "At least the debate is on"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By scrapping the Enron power project the Maharashtra government has started a wide ranging debate on foreign capital investment. Barring the Congress-I Party, the rest of the political parties favor the decision. Yet, they all tried to show that all of the credit for this decision should not go only to

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the Shiv Sena-Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) alliance because all of the non-Congress parties have opposed the project throughout. They asserted that the Maharashtra government made this decision only because they were against the project and their constant opposition generated enough public opinion. The truth, however, is that barring the Shiv Sena-BJP-alliance, no other political party made Enron an election issue. As a matter of fact, out of the seven fast-paced power projects, two are being installed in states ruled by the Leftist Front and three in states ruled by the National Front. West Bengal and Karnataka also have entered into agreements for similar projects. But these two states did not choose a confrontational stance against multinational companies. Hence it is unlikely that the other opposition parties will succeed in sharing the credit for the Maharashtra government decision. Still, all of the non-BJP parties have started to raise their demands for a review of all power projects. It is quite possible that seeing the fate of Enron, other multinationals might agree to drastic changes in their project agreements. But, all told, it is only the BJP which will derive maximum political mileage out of this situation. It appears the Congress-I will suffer the greatest psychological disadvantage caused by the scrapping of the Enron project. What is interesting is while the other central leaders are avoiding any scathing comments on the Maharashtra government decision, it is only Sharad Pawar who appears to be sole critic of the decision in the entire Congress party. And it is his criticism which is inadvertently placing the Congress-I in the dock.

This decision has started an animated debate on its likely effect on the prospects for foreign investment in India. The Congress-I has, right from the beginning, considered the decision will have an adverse effect on country's economic progress. But somehow, no organization linked with industry feels any immediate crisis in the country. Although some big industrialists have called the decision unfortunate and pleaded for fresh negotiations with Enron, most of the indigenous and middle class industrialists feel that the project has been canceled due to the vast economic irregularities committed in the Enron project. So not withstanding the immediate reaction of foreign investors and guided by their economic wisdom, foreign investors will eventually come to India to invest in Indian markets due to the capacity for growth. One of the serious points of discussion is whether the government, bound by the contract, will have to pay a large amount of compensation to Enron or not. In case the Maharashtra government refuses to pay the compensation, the central government will have this responsibility thrust upon it. But, at present, it is not even certain whether according to the contract some compensation needs to be paid or not. According to Gopinath Munde, no such compensation needs to be paid. In case it is to be paid, will the central government recover the costs of compensation from the grants it gives to the State of Maharashtra? This step, however, would cost the central government very dearly in the political arena. Moreover, the prime minister does not want his party be viewed by the people as an agent of the multinationals. Hence the best course for him would be to suggest the transfer of the Enron project to some Congress-ruled state. This suggestion would be proper because the Enron episode has caused a significant fall in the central government's reputation abroad. The most significant outcome of the Maharashtra government's decision is the beginning of a debate about achieving self sufficiency in power production. According to power production experts, the country should strive towards this goal by utilizing the existing capacity and resources in the country because our infatuation for multinationals is allowing our own capabilities to rot and go to waste from underutilization.

Article Views Enron, BJP's Economic Nationalism

BK1108021595 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Aug 95 p 12

[Article by M.D. Nalapat: "Evicting Enron Symbol of BJP's Economic Nationalism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In deciding to stop the Enron project, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is emulating the Clinton administration. Under it the U.S. has been aggressive in fashioning economic decisions on the basis of political interests, especially where these involve foreign companies. The recent spat with Japan over car imports for example, was not about productivity or value. It was about superpower muscle.

In the case of Enron, that company appears to have paid the price for too close an identification with an administration which is increasingly seen as unresponsive to Indian concerns. The bullying over Prithvi and Agni, the unwillingness to accept the reality of Pakistan's support to terrorists in India, the arms package to that country even while India is denied access to American technology, all this has added up to a perception that the Clinton team has ignored India's interests in its drive to shore up Ms Benazir Bhutto. As a result, the nascent pro-U.S. mood of the middle class during 1991-92 appears to be evaporating.

Wrong Policy

However, more than the Americans, it is the policy of the Indian government that needs to be blamed for such a change. By tacitly accepting most U.S. formulations on economic and security concerns the Rao government

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has gifted away the nationalist plank that was the mainstay of the Congress party for over a century. This nationalism-so derided by 'globalists', none of whom has presumably been made to wait at customs barriers in western capitals while those with more politically correct passports breeze through — has its origin in the centuries of foreign rule that most of India endured. As a consequence, there is a powerful subliminal urge for security, that the missile programme could have met, had it not been frozen under pressure.

While the MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] may meekly accept American explanations that the tilt towards Ms Bhutto "is not against India", to less credulous observers such a justification is reminiscent of Francisco Franco's assurance to the Allied powers during 1941-43 that Spanish supplies of strategic materials such as wolfram to the Nazis was an act of "neutrality". The double standard is clear from the U.S. attitude towards Islamabad's training, equipping and financing of cross-border terrorism.

The excuse offered by the State Department is that such aid has been given by "private" groups. Is one to assume then that the Clinton administration would have a similarly benign attitude if a "private" Indian force were to cross the western border?

Similarly with nuclear proliferation. Even though Pakistan has officially admitted to a nuclear capability, feverish lobbying at the level of Mr Clinton and the vice-president, Mr Al Gore, has taken place to supply arms to Islamabad once again. The proposed package bristles with missiles even as Washington stops India from further development of its missile systems. For the Rao government, the policy of "low-key protests" against such actions has become a political liability. The middle class has the impression that the government is unable to protect Indian interests, whether in the economic or the security sphere. Very probably this is an unfair impression. But in a democracy, if one practises only quiet diplomacy, out of the reach of the media, credit will not go to those who deserve it.

Enron has it seems paid the price for being seen as uncomfortably close to a U.S. administration which is perceived as insensitive to Indian interests. The open lobbying done for it — while it may have helped in the phase when decisions were taken in a Washington-friendly atmosphere — became counterproductive when nationalist tunes once more evoked resonance in the middle classes. The turning point in the public mood towards Enron was probably the U.S. energy secretary's threat that action against the company would affect the economic relationship between India and the U.S. dominated as it is by Europhiles, the Clinton team is evidently unaware of the Asian desire for form. By ignoring this, the Clinton team has damaged ties with each of the three major countries in Asia — China, India and Japan — besides once again stirring nationalist sentiment in the Eurasian power, Russia.

By its decision on Enron, the BJP, along with its Shiv Sena partner, has sent a message to the middle class that it has the will to resist foreign pressure, wherever it judges such pressure to be against the national interest. It is a different matter that re-negotiation rather than scrapping the project may have better served India's long-term interests. In elections, what counts is perception, not reality. On the other hand, the Congress leadership appears unaware of the extent to which it is seen as being subservient to outside pressure.

Filtered Version

Political journalists recognise the reason: the trappings of office that distance an individual from grassroots sentiment. Thanks to the rows of barriers preventing access, often only a very filtered version of the reality reaches the top. Those guarding access are naturally careful to ensure that information against their views is filtered out. Thus the Surajkund camp — in which the most interesting "discussions" took place not from the podium but at the lunch and dinner tables — must have served as an eye- opener, exposing the gap between the leader and the led. Had the Rao government-which has had numerous successes to its credit — fashioned a mechanism to incorporate political feedback into its policy, Congress workers may not be worrying aloud today about whether the party's score in 1996 will cross two-digit figures.

While the public has been turned off by the ever-increasing issue prices of grain (the benefit going to rich farmers who are not numerous enough to swing an election), the middle class has been angered by the refusal to reduce income-tax rates to reasonable levels. Overall, the freezing of those symbols of Indian technological achievement — Prithvi and Agni — has generated a palpable sense of shame that a country of 900 million cannot resist outside pressure. This is compared not only with China, but far smaller countries such as Malaysia and Singapore, which have refused to budge when asked to bend. Sensing Congress vulnerability, the BJP moved in for the kill. Scrapping a project, if it means a difference of 50 seats in the next Lok Sabha, is not a high price.

Friendly Message

On the Enron issue the BJP has touched a nationalist nerve. Where it is in danger of making a misstep is

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in reverting to emphasis on the communal — as distinct from nationalist — strands in its message. With development, the voter has placed a psychological premium on stability. And such a mood may be disturbed by the efforts of fundamentalists to generate agitations in Varanasi and Mathura.

However, the hawks in BJP are not the only individuals misjudging the public mood. The Congress party has been sedulous in transmitting a friendly message to multinational corporations. For example, it has not highlighted the fact that the "battle" in ITC [expansion unknown] is not about K.L. Chugh, but about an MNC [multinational corporation] trying to raise its stake on the cheap. Perhaps this is because it permitted numerous such actions in the past. It has been lecturing the world (most recently during the external affairs minister's trip to Moscow) about Islamic fundamentalism, rather than focussing on fundamentalism in general, whether Hindu (as seen in the Babri Masjid incident), or Muslim (as seen in Pakistan), or Christian (as seen in the Serb offensive against the Bosnian Muslims). Rather than educate its cadres, it would appear that the Congress leadership needs to send itself back to school, to develop and articulate a message that is linked both to its traditions as well as to current national needs.

International Arbitration To Be Sought on Enron

BK1108044795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashra government will examine all legal aspects of the notice sent to it by Enron concerning the scrapped Dabhol power project and its demand seeking $300 million as compensation against expenditure incurred on the project. The state government has expressed its intention to opt for international arbitration. In a separate letter, the Enron has also questioned the ground on which the state government has scrapped the project.

Official Cites Bangladesh, Pakistan in 'Terrorism'

BK0808104695 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 2 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi 1 Aug [PTI] — Former Manipur Governor Retired Lieutenant General V.K. Nayyar has held a nexus between politicians and smugglers responsible for the problems of terrorism in the northeast. He cautioned that the terrorists' camps are being transferred from Myanmar [Burma] to Bangladesh as they are receiving active support from the intelligence agencies of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Addressing a seminar at South Block [External Affairs Ministry] today, Gen. Nayyar said that some forces are trying to give a local dimension to terrorism in the northeast. For this purpose, Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence and Bangladesh's intelligence agency have jointly set up camps in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Silchar.

The subject of the seminar was: 'The Problems of the Northeast Region and Prospects.' He said that the central government should act immediately and set up counter-intelligence units. If we fail to chalk out a concrete policy in this connection, it will be very difficult to control terrorism in this region.

Gen Nayyar had resigned the post of Manipur governor one and half year ago in protest against the nexus between politicians and terrorists. Soon after that, he had said in his last report to the central government that he had identified those politicians and top bureaucrats of the state who are fanning ethnic confrontation in the northeast region.

Gen. Nayyar said such people cannot be reformed through soft tactics. If terrorism is to be faced squarely, such people should be exposed and made ineffective. He said he had been the governor of Manipur for two years. He realized during this time that the central government lacked the willpower to eliminate the alliance of politicians, smugglers, and terrorists.

In such a situation, it has become necessary to raise this issue at different forums to reveal these elements and make them powerless. For this purpose the masses are to be awakened.

Gen. Nayyar has acquired fame for his anti-terrorist campaign. He proposed better coordination between security forces and intelligence agencies for an effective action against terrorism. He also wants the setting up of more trade centers on the Myanmar border. Other than this, mutual trade ties between the seven northeastern states should be further promoted. If all these steps are effectively implemented, terrorism in northeast India can be eliminated.

He said it is not possible to control terrorism through isolated efforts. Multidimensional efforts are required for this purpose. Analyses and subsequent remedy of social injustices will lead to the solution of an armed insurrection. Concrete measures have to be taken for the economic development of the people of this region and the fulfillment of their needs.

Gen. Nayyar made a scathing attack on the politicians of the northeast. He said when these accredited leaders of political parties come to Delhi, they put it about that their power could be undermined by the terrorism. This is done to get the central government's approval for

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a large sum of money in the name of protecting the people's interests.

Party Leaders View Government's Economic Policy

BK0908041195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leaders of various political parties at a seminar in New Delhi have broadly agreed on deregulation, debureaucratization, and inviting foreign investment in the core sector, but they expressed divergent views on other aspects of the new economic policy and its implementation. The welfare minister, Mr. Sita Ram Kesri, said there is already a consensus among the political parties on the economic policy of the Center.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Jaswant Singh, was of the view that the current economic policy has benefited only the industrial houses and the multinationals. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, opined that a common economic policy is impossible, though parties could agree on micro policies. The CPI leader, Mr. Indrajeet Gupta; the AIADMK [All Indian Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] leader, Mr. G. Swaminathan; and the Janata Party president, Mr. Subrahmaniam Swamy, were among those who spoke at the seminar. The seminar was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Report on 'Mercenary' Leader Ordering Kidnappings

BK1008140795 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Arun Joshi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Afghanistan-based mercenary outfit Harkatul Ansar "supreme commander" Saifudullah has issued fresh instructions to its cadre for kidnapping foreign nationals especially British, French and Americans and also prominent people like judges, advocates and senior officials to get their men in captivity released, reports UNI.

This was revealed in a recorded cassette seized by the Rashtriya Rifles Delta Force unit, after an encounter with the militants at Seojgali in Bhadarwah region of Doda district recently.

The cassette, sent from Pakistan to militant cadre in the State, was played to a group of visiting newsmen at the Delta Force unit headquarters. It gives fresh instructions to the militants in Doda and Kashmir Valley to concentrate on kidnappings of foreign nationals.

'Rival Militant Groups' Clash in Kashmir Shrine

BK1108045495 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 0435 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A clash between two rival militant groups, the Hizbul Mojahedin and JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front], inside the Hazratbal shrine complex [in Kashmir] yesterday resulted in killing of a militant and injuries to a woman devotee. The killed militant belonged to the JKLF. The firing incident caused a scare among the devotees who had assembled in a large number in the Hazratbal shrine on the occasion of 'Id Miladunnabi [birthday of Prophet Muhammad].

Decline Reported in 'Extremist-Related Violence'

BK0808050795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government says there has been a decline in extremist-related violence and crime. In an identical statement laid in both houses of Parliament, the minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, said that the situation in Punjab and Assam has improved and the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] menace has been largely contained. He said major security and law and order challenge has come from the externally guided insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir. The 16-page statement says that Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of murders, kidnappings, abductions, and robberies last year. There were the maximum numbers of dacoity [banditry] incidents in Bihar and rapes and burglaries in Madhya Pradesh. Maharashtra led in cases of cheating.

Iran

U.S. Congress Call For 'Overthrow' of Regime Viewed

95LH0121A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 18 Jun 95 p 19

[Editorial by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "Overthrowing Iran's Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Congress surprised many people when it sent a resolution to President Bill Clinton calling on him to overthrow the Iranian regime. More than 200 representatives sponsored the strongly worded resolution, thus confirming the serious nature of their appeal and its popularity among the legislators in the United States. They called for the adoption of strong measures against Iran, including the blacklisting of international companies that deal with it. The representatives also called for the establishment of a radio station beamed to the Iranian people, similar

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to Radio Free Europe, which carried programs to the Eastern Bloc during the Cold War, and for stiffer economic sanctions against Iran. This contradicts the line Congress has normally taken, which is to block such foreign plans. It has opposed the Vietnam war since the late President Johnson decided to dispatch more U.S. troops there. We also remember that Congress opposed U.S. military involvement in the Lebanese war. It was renowned for its position against the attempt to overthrow the leftist regime in Nicaragua and to help the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. All these are political positions, which were designed to restrict the U.S. Administration's foreign activity and prevent the adoption of direct hostile actions. Congress stripped the administration of the right to implement such policies before seeking congressional approval. It also stripped the U.S. intelligence of the power to carry out political assassinations.

Why has Congress, or the House of Representatives, deviated from tradition in Iran's case?

The recent developments in the Iranian situation undoubtedly are considered serious, even if some observers think that the Zionist lobby has incited Congress against Iran because it opposes the peace process. The situation is much more serious than this.

Iran's decision to build nuclear reactors has raised doubts about its objectives. Iran, in turn, has not been able to justify its decision to buy Russian nuclear reactors, especially as it was a big oil and gas country. A country like Iran would normally oppose nuclear energy, not support it. Iran's nuclear program expanded the conflict with the United States, which maintained that it directly affects its vital interests and not only peace. The Americans think that had Iraq been able to complete its nuclear or chemical programs, which it began in the late seventies, perhaps it would have been impossible to get it out of Kuwait and prevent it from advancing to all the oil-rich states in the Gulf area.

Iran confirmed the doubts when it reinforced its military power and purchased three large Russian submarines for its navy. The Americans think that Iran is going ahead with very costly, military projects despite its poor economic situation. Nevertheless, Iran might not continue building its new power for long. Even if it completes it, Iran probably cannot enjoy it for long. Nuclear reactors, in particular, will always be the targets of outside attack or sabotage, as with the reactors in Iraq and other countries.

The controversy with Iran came on the anniversary of a similar controversy with North Korea. Although North Korea was better armed and trained and more capable of completing its nuclear program, it retreated in the face of international pressure. Like Iran, North Korea is famous for its political intransigence. It reportedly retreated from its intransigent position after it was informed that its nuclear program would be destroyed by military means without the need to engage in a costly war with its army. Simply, they would attack the reactors' main auxiliary services and thus paralyze the reactors. The argument with North Korea was less acute than with Iran because the first is far from the vital international interests of the United States. Iran, however, is in the heart of the area. It is adding more problems for itself, just as Iraq did in the Kuwait war.

Despite the U.S. strategic justifications, which reject threats to the oil regions, the U.S. Congress is making a big mistake by making the overthrow of the regime as its goal instead of solving the disagreement by political means or limiting its plans to destroying the military sources of the threat. Overthrowing a regime from outside is undoubtedly a hostile action. It is totally different from attacking a reactor or foiling a hostile plan. Experience has taught us that an existing regime, however bad it may be, might be better than a successive regime whose identity is unknown and performance cannot be guaranteed. In the past, we complained a great deal about the regime of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in Iran. When it fell, we found out that we moved from the scorching heat to the fire. Political experience in the past 15 years must have taught the existing regime many lessons and polished its behavior, despite the apparent abrasive statements of some of its officials or the actions of some of its departments. The hope of this area is to keep out of big wars. If the U.S. Administration follows the recommendation of the House of Representatives to topple the Iranian regime, it would undoubtedly get directly involved in a conflict no one in the area is ready to support. The United States has clear interests. Everyone, including its enemies, knows that harming those interests means declaring war on Washington. Washington's threat to confront Iran and its violations is understandable.

Iran has made significant progress in its attempt to join the international community and has often abided by its laws. It will lose by confronting the biggest superpower in the world. The U.S. demands pertain to the security situation that affects its interests and threaten the entire area. The construction of a nuclear reactor will prompt other countries, which oppose Iran or are concerned about its policies, to acquire similar atomic weapons. Iran's purchasing of large Russian submarines will definitely prompt other countries in the area to buy similar submarines to maintain the balance. Where will this policy lead us? It will exhaust Iran and the states in the region and satisfy the weapons' sellers.

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We hope that Iran will see the light by paying attention to its internal situation, trying to reform it, and abandoning foreign wrangles. This will be a source of strength to it and certainly a source of comfort to its neighbors.

Sudanese Envoy on 'Strategic' Ties With Tehran

NC1008205895 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 95 p 2

[IRNA Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sudanese Ambassador to Tehran Qutbi al-Mahdi denied recent allegations by certain Western media on Iran's military presence in Sudan saying that such allegations were fabricated by the world arrogance.

Speaking to IRNA, the ambassador referred to Tehran-Khartoum relations as 'strategic' and said that his country has so far felt no need to establish military cooperation with Iran.

If any defensive cooperation was needed between the two countries, it could be established through agreements, noted Al- Mahdi.

Commenting on claims by certain Western dailies on Iran and Sudan supporting Islamic movements in some Arab states, the ambassador stressed that such allegations were made by those who had some domestic problems due to their unpopular policies and thus attributed their internal problems to external forces.

Considering the popular and independent systems in Sudan and Iran, which support just and Islamic issues worldwide, such allegations by arrogant powers and their lackey regimes is not surprising.

He described as "highly excellent" Tehran-Khartoum relations and said the two countries enjoyed strong ties in all fields.

As for the roots of Khartoum disputes with Cairo, Al-Mahdi pointed to Sudan's ideological difference with Egypt, cooperation of Cairo government with the Zionist regime and Egypt's support for U.S. policies.

Official Addresses Bosnia, French Nuclear Tests

LD1008191095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Director General of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry for Euro-American Affairs, Mr. Ahani, in an interview with the correspondent for IRIB's external service has expressed his views on the Bosnian crisis and the French nuclear tests.

Concerning the Western countries role in the behind door agreements of Serbia and Croatia over the division of Bosnia, Mr. Ahani said: Given the good military cooperation of Croatia and Bosnia that we have recently witnessed, it appears that the plot of dividing Bosnia has been neutralized.

On the strong opposition of the European countries and the Pacific Ocean to the French nuclear test in Mururoa Island, Mr. Ahani said: We have not seen a unanimous stance by Western countries; but these countries try to resort to human right leverage to convince France to discontinue its nuclear testings.

Commenting on the quality of the expanding relations with European countries to loosen the U.S. political and economic pressures, Mr. Ahani said: Generally all countries pursue their own interests as we do. Meanwhile Europe is not definitely ready to ignore Iran, given the depth of its relations with the country and that is due to common interests. As we have experienced, Mr. Ahani said, we realized that European nations are not ready to accept another country to impose its own policies on them.

At the end of the interview our reporter asked Mr. Ahani to comment on the inauguration of Italian Voice on August 9th here in Tehran. To which Mr. Ahani said: Expansion of overseas programs and the Italian Voice is commendable because today is the age of communication and establishment of direct contacts with nations is one of the most effective and most important ways, especially given the efforts of some mass media in the world trying to distort the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad.

Mr. Ahani then concluded: Overseas radio services should try to present the values and realities of the Islamic system to the people of the world.

'Islamic Force' Called To Defend Bosnians, Croats

NC1008175995 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 95 p 2

[Editorial: "High Time To Form Islamic Force"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced yesterday that Iran is determined to send arms to Bosnia. Iran's move follows the decision of the Organization of [the] Islamic Conference (OIC) to lift the UN-sponsored arms embargo on defenseless Bosnia and Velayati's recent meeting with the Croatian and Bosnian officials.

In their meeting with Velayati, Bosnian leaders underlined their need for heavy weaponry in order to be able to defend innocent Bosnians against the Serbs.

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Although the arms embargo is against the whole of former Yugoslavia, the Serbs have control over 90 percent of the weapons of the former Yugoslav army. This makes the embargo effective only on the Bosnian Muslims. In the name of preventing war, through this seemingly innocuous embargo, the United Nations has deprived Bosnian muslims of the right to defend themselves.

Today, even the layman on the street realizes that the UN is an accomplice in Serb crimes. Hence, any violation of the UN-sponsored arms embargo is welcomed by the international community. The big powers still resort to the policy of procrastination, because despite an empty pro-Bosnian posture, they are virtually on the side of the Serbs.

World Muslims and humanists should not waste time waiting for action by the UN, NATO or the big powers. They should join the Islamic Republic of Iran in sending arms to Bosnia, enabling the Bosnians to thwart Serb atrocities.

In following the footsteps of the big powers, the United Nations has lost its legitimacy. Its resolutions and decisions regarding sanctions on Bosnia are no longer valid.

It is time to form an Islamic force to defend the defenseless Bosnians and even the Croats against the Serbs.

Israel Said Creating Obstacles to Gaza-Jericho Pact

LD1008201895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under conditions when Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres are haggling over the manner, timing, and extent of withdrawal of the Zionist army from the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Zionist regime foreign minister has talked about having control over the greater part of the West Bank even in case of re-array of the Israelis.

Raising such remarks while implementation of every phase of the Gaza-Ariha [Jericho] compromise is each time faced with notable barriers by the Zionist regime is worth pondering. Based on the PLO-Tel Aviv compromise, according to the PLO the second phase of the plan of the self-rule expansion should have been executed in July 1994. However, after the delay of one year in the withdrawal of the Israeli army and even setting an (?unexecuted) new deadline for re-arraying Israeli army in the West Bank of the Jordan river there are still many ambiguities. In fact at present the Zionist regime, feeling no commitment to the pact to which it is a signatory, wants to exercise control over a large portion of the West Bank after rearraignment in it. It even has talked about withdrawal within six months and only from some cities of the West Bank, imposing its terms on the Palestinian side. In other words, it can be said that the Zionist regime, under these conditions, plans to employ the leverage of time against the Palestinian side to gain the greater concession by prolonging the talks.

Tel Aviv's present policy, at present, is based on continuation of expert delegation, even though this may not result in a conclusion. Analysts believe that given the approaching parliamentarian elections and prime ministerial elections in the occupied Palestine, the present officials of Tel Aviv plan to narrow the ring round the Palestinian side to win the votes, imposing their desire on them.

It is clear that at present it is only the PLO leaders that are committed to the Gaza-Ariha pact whereas the Zionists create new obstacles and each time change the contents of the compromise. In this way, when the Zionist regime openly talks of control over the cities of the West Bank, the water in this region, the economic and foreign policy strengthens the belief that, first, that Gaza-Ariha agreement is ambiguous and flexible, being put on paper as desired by the Zionist regime. Moreover, the goal of the Zionist regime in signing the pact is to change the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of the Jordan river into two provinces under the control of Israel within the framework of the self-rule government.

Editorial: 'New Era' in Relations With South Africa

NC1008195995 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Aug 95 p 2

[Editorial: "New Era in Tehran-Pretoria Cooperation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first South African ambassador to Iran in post-Islamic-revolution era arrived here yesterday.

The revolutionary Iran cut off its relations with the apartheid regime in Pretoria after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. With the dissipation of apartheid in that country, not only was a congenial ground prepared for Tehran-Pretoria rapproachement, but the two countries found natural allies in each other.

Both Iran and South Africa are located on strategic spots on the map of the world. Iran overwatches the Strait of Hormuz while South Africa overwatches the Cape of Good Hope. Oil tankers leaving Persian Gulf ports pass the Cape of Good Hope before reaching their final destination in Europe. Therefore, the two countries can cooperate not only in commerce but also in security

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areas which are to the benefit of all regional countries in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

A good beginning is just in the offing: South Africa will store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil for re-export to other countries. The two countries can embark on joint ventures in oil refinery, transportation, and marketing. - Both Iran and South Africa are rich in minerals some of which are rarest in the world. This is another field for mutual cooperation.

Ironically, both countries are on the U.S. hit list or watch list. Because they do not give in to U.S. bullying, they have to face Washington's grudge one way or another.

Mandela has already passed his test in defying and foiling imperialists. Iran is also a pioneer in anti-imperialist campaigns. Cooperation between the two can strengthen the stance of the South vis-a-vis the North.

Commentary: Changes in Saudi Oil Policy Possible

LD0808143795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 8 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd announced Riyadh's wish to strengthen cooperation between oil producers and predicted that, in view of the growth in international consumption, the price of oil will go up.

These remarks came at a time when, less than a week ago, there was an extensive reshuffle of the Saudi Arabian cabinet. In the reshuffle, which was the first since the coming to power of King Fahd in 1982, 15 ministers, including the oil minister, were changed. During the course of this development, Hisham Nazir gave his position — after nine years as the head of the Saudi Arabian Oil Ministry — to 'Ali al-Nu'aymi, the head of the Aramco Oil Company.

Although, during the past week, oil affairs' analysts have suggested that it would be unlikely that there would be any change in Saudi Arabia's oil policies despite the replacement of Hisham Nazir by al-Nu'aymi, nevertheless, it seems as if King Fahd's recent remarks about the need for greater cooperation between oil producers and the expectation that oil prices would go up may be seen as a positive trend toward strengthening OPEC and toward a policy of boosting the price of oil; especially in view of the fact that, on Saturday [5 August], the Saudi Arabian king — speaking at the swearing-in ceremony for the new ministers — said that the aim of the reshuffle was to improve the country's economic performance, which has been harmed by the fall in the price of oil and the Persian Gulf war.

The present conditions of the oil market are such that, from a daily total of about 70 million barrels, only about 25 million barrels are the share of OPEC member countries and non-OPEC producers have constantly increased their oil supply to the market, bringing it to the level of 42.3 million barrels per day.

According to the prediction of the International Energy Agency, although international demand for oil will reach 71.2 million barrels per day next year, nevertheless, non-OPEC producers will also be increasing their production to 43.6 million barrels per day next year — representing a 1.3 million barrel increase over their production this year, even though this attitude of non-OPEC countries and their inclination to think of their short-term interest will be at the cost of disturbances in the oil market and fluctuations in the price of oil.

Thus, for OPEC, which, while wishing to strengthen the price of oil, wants to gain a suitable position on the international market — and it played this role in a worthy way during the 1970's — consolidating solidarity between OPEC members, defending the approved quotas, and talking to non-OPEC producers and winning their cooperation are necessities — especially because OPEC members are in the main concerned about their revenues from oil in order to carry out development projects and collective action by OPEC toward boosting oil prices will fulfill the interests of all members.

At any rate, the idea that OPEC member countries should act realistically with respect to their analysis of the oil market and its prospects and that they should bear their national interests in mind promises a trend, the continuation of which may well strengthen OPEC's position in the world.

Moldova Trade Center Reportedly To Be Established

LD0708123495 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 7, IRNA — Iran's trade center is to be established in the Republic of Moldova to promote trade relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, it was announced here Monday [7 August].

Mehdi Behkish, an advisor to the head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines of Iran added that the establishment of the center would pave the way for trade exchanges and would remove barriers to the establishment of trade relations by the Islamic republic with Central Asian Republics.

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Ahmad Tavakoli, another official at Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines also said that the establishment of such centers in the republics of former Soviet Union should serve to provide the Islamic republic with its needed essential goods.

He added that Iran's Chamber of Commerce is to supply domestically goods to those republics through such trade centers in order to activate private sectors there.

Tavakoli also voiced private sector's readiness to cooperate with the proposed trade centers and jointly invest in different fields including production of sugar, establishment of cement factories and packing industries.

Effects of Export Expansion on Technology Viewed

95LA0317A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the problems with our industrial growth is the culture prevailing in society, which is a consumer and import culture. Our products are not suitable for foreign markets. Without changes in their quality, these products cannot find their way to international markets. We must bring the idea of exports into our industry; that is our industries must operate with the intention of exporting rather than meeting domestic needs. Naturally, such a policy is not incompatible with domestic consumption. If the quality of products improves, the people of the country will also consume better goods.

Today's international markets consist of multiple and various products. The variety of shapes, colors, construction, and manner of presentation of a specific item is so great that it is quite difficult to choose the best one. The only accurate guide to choosing the desired item is its quality and the reputation it has gained because of it. In the world of competition, which is quite complicated, continued survival requires great effort and revision of procedures.

Constant improvement of quality and adding new characteristics to goods are definite necessities. This will not be possible unless producing countries prepare themselves with the help of better technology, by having sufficient skill to apply this technology, and finally by establishing permanent continuing education for this competition.

One strategy that can lay the groundwork for the development of technology in the country (of course provided that other conditions are met) is the adoption of an export development policy. Export oriented development means division of labor and specialization (skilled use of production resources). Involvement in international markets and competing there will make companies (foundations) more efficient and will make the structure of the domestic market more competitive.

Although it is said that export oriented economies are more vulnerable to foreign damage and that unfavorable foreign influences are more damaging to them, recent experiences in Southeast Asian nations—in Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and other places—shows that since the first oil shock, this has not been that much the case.

Of course the achievement of conditions such as the establishment of a real, stable and adequate foreign exchange rate, the stabilization of prices, the labor market, and other things are also necessary. Likewise the acceptance of a strategy of export development is not limited to these factors. In general, there should be no institutional obstacles to the activities of exporters of raw materials, technology, and services affiliated with exports.

Measures that can help encourage exports include the reduction of physical and infrastructure obstacles to transportation, export incentives, supported export credits, reduced or forgiven taxes for export-related activities, authorization to spend export revenues on imports, and support for foreign markets through information services. The development of export areas is another measure that should be given the necessary attention in the export development strategy.

In the First Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan, great emphasis was given to exporting goods built in our country to international markets, or in other words to externalizing industry and finally to the development of industrial exports. It will not be possible to achieve this goal, however, unless our goods can compete with foreign goods.

In this Five-Year Plan our industry should have exported almost $2 billion annually, yet before the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] this figure never exceeded $30 million. Such a leap needs great alertness and awareness in choosing goals, in the use of industry, and in concerted effort. To achieve such a goal, meaning the strategy of developing an export-oriented economy, we must think internationally but work within the country.

Pakistan

Official Comments on Pressler Amendment Changes

BK0708150695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Secretary Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh has said chances of modification in the

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Pressler Amendment as proposed by Senator Brown remain high despite the minor pause caused due to the intricacies of the American legislative process. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the modification seeks exemption from the purview of the Pressler Amendment for economic assistance, military training, return of unrepaired spare parts, and storage charges on equipment purchased by Pakistan. He said Senator Brown respected his amendment to these aspects only for strategic reasons. He will be introducing later another amendment to carry forward the Clinton administration's proposals for the release of all equipment except for the F-16's that Pakistan had contracted for before October 1990 and for which it had already paid. There was a strong measure of support for the move.

[Begin Najmuddin Sheikh recording] Present developments in the U.S. Senate and in the Congress should not be regarded as a set back, but rather as pause that has come about because of the intricacies of the American legislative process. We do not believe that this, in any way, reflects an erosion of the strong support that exists in the Congress for a modification of the Pressler Amendment and for removing at least partially the irritant that the Pressler Amendment has represented in U.S.-Pakistan relations. [end recording]

Military Official Views U.S., Afghanistan Ties

BK1008145895 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 2 Aug 95 p 2

["Address" of General K.M. Arif before Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Because of the paucity of time I will comment on the Pak-US relations and the Pak-Afghanistan relations together. The US ability to influence the global political decisions was amply demonstrated during the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] extension conference held at the UN in April-May this year. The US acts firmly if her national interests are perceived by her to be at stake. The NPT extension, Kuwait, Haiti and Iran are some examples. She dithers and pays lip service to peace and stability in other troubled areas like Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda and Kashmir. Her selective approach makes her an unpredictable and an unreliable great power.

In our inter-state relations with the US we may draw a careful balance between earning the US goodwill and compromising on our national interests and prestige. A policy of incremental capitulation on our uranium enrichment process some years ago emboldened USA to subject Pakistan to unilateral pressure and punishment. The Americans may understand our position better and perhaps share our concern if we argue our case firmly on the principles of justice, logic and equity. They will exploit our weakness.

President Clinton's warm tribute to some of our policy decisions taken on the eve of Prime Minister's visit to USA created an impression that our judgements were influenced with eyes focused on Washington. The Pressler Amendment stays. The proposed changes are cosmetic in nature. We were unduly euphoric about the US decision to return our money or provide the contracted and paid for F16s. We may demand our money with interest and damages. The US is doing us no favour by creating a one-sided flexibility in her domestic legislation. Our military equipment sent for repairs is reportedly being returned without putting it right. To provide some training facilities to Pakistani military personnel promotes the long-term interest of the US itself. Their military utility to Pakistan is of lesser significance. The US ambassador in Pakistan said a few days ago that the American firms that had signed the MOUs [memorandums of understanding] were busy arranging funds and watching developments in Pakistan to determine if the climate was satisfactory for them to risk investment. We should normalize relations with the US but without compromising on our principles. We are not a perfect country. While we committed follies in our internal affairs our foreign policy decisions on major issues in the past were generally proved right. Our relations with China, with America in the yester era, our support to Afghanistan and our nuclear policy are some examples. We seem to be losing that grip. The IMF watchdogs permanently sit in Islamabad to oversee our budget and guide our fiscal policies. Do we need the Vatican assistance to interpret Islam for us? Surely America and her strategic allies are not qualified to preach sermons against religious extremism to the world because they are themselves guilty of ethnic cleansing in Europe, Africa, Israel and Australia. Those who accuse us of Islamic fundamentalism should please identify the Muslims guilty of following the policies of apartheid, or eliminating Red Indians and Aborigines. Pakistan's participation in the UN peace operations pleases America. This is fine. But the countries providing troops in large numbers should rightfully be involved at the policy making levels to implement the UN decisions. This is not being done in Bosnia where the command and control structure of the UN forces is largely manned by the British and the French officers. This is neo-colonialism?

Our relations with the Gulf states have remained low ever since the Iraq war. How many Pakistanis will be beheaded for indulging in the narcotics trade in foreign countries before we decide to bring the narcotic barons

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in our country to justice? America has publicly accused some bigwigs who enjoy positions of eminence.

Mutually healthy relations are in the bilateral interest of Pakistan and the US. Both the countries wish to mend their diplomatic fences. True, Pakistan's needs are greater because of her internal difficulties, economic weakness and external dangers. We must look for viable options and diversify our foreign policy. The persistent low ebb of Pakistan-Russia relations is not a tribute to our diplomacy. That our Prime Minister has yet to visit Russia indicates the low priority we attach to this neighbour. Our relations with China, Saudi Arabia and Egypt could be better.

The Indian investors have greatly expanded trade ties with the Central Asian Countries. Our achievements are more in the field of rhetoric. ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] is good but its economic and political potential will largely remain unexploited without peace returning to Afghanistan. Prudence demands that in our own long-term interest we may help Afghanistan in overcoming her teething problems and in regaining normalcy. We may ignore the minor irritants and be patient with it. Instead, we are busy pinpricking this neighbour on issues of trade flow, smuggling and transit control etc. Such incidents have had a long history and cannot be eliminated overnight. Afghanistan is our close and important neighbour. We have a stake in its stability and progress. We need a very friendly Afghanistan. Regretfully our relations with this country are on a decline. Our ability to offer advice to its different pillars of power is decreasing. We are no longer accepted as a peace broker. This should be worrying us.

Finally, I once again express thanks for this opportunity in sharing my views with you. Please forgive me if I have been too critical. I thought I should be candid between ourselves. I assure you that good faith was my motivating factor. May I leave you with a final thought that our unending political polarization could be more lethal than an external aggression on our motherland. Let me end with a quotation from the Quaid-i-Azam [Mohammad Ali Jinnah] who said, "Let it not be said that we did not prove equal to the task". May God be with us all. I thank you for the patience shown in such abundance.

'Indian Technicians' Reportedly Aiding Kabul

BK1008095195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Aug 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sheberghan — Two Afghan pilots who defected the Rabbani government to join Gen Rashid Dostam have claimed that more than 30 Indian engineers and technicians were helping Kabul to repair and maintain its fleet of MIG-21 and SU-22 jet-fighters.

Moonis and Hamid, wearing their pilot's uniform, told Pakistan reporters accompanying Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali during his recent visit to Afghanistan that the Indians were based at the Bagram airbase north of Kabul. They said the Indian technicians worked and lived at a secret location in Bagram, wore shalwar-kameez [traditional dress] in a bid to look like Afghans, and refrained from mixing with the Afghans.

The young Afghan pilots, who had defected about eleven months ago, were produced by Dostam's air force officials on the request of the Pakistani reporters. Both said they were 25 years old and were Tajiks from Kabul. They had been trained as pilots in Afghanistan and in Russia and had flown trainer aircraft and MIGs.

Hafizullah, a Pashtoon who commanded the air force unit to which Moonis and Hamid belonged, said President Rabbani and his military commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud opted to seek Indian military assistance when Dostam joined hands with Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] (Hekmatyar), Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] (Mazari) and Prof. Mojaddedi's ANLF [Afghan National Liberation Front] and launched an offensive to topple the Kabul regime. He maintained that an Indian military delegation first visited Bagram to assess Kabul's needs and suggest measures to improve the striking power of its air force. He said the Indian technicians were sent subsequently to repair damaged aircraft, overhaul those in use and advise the Rabbani air force. "The striking rate and frequency of flights of the Rabbani air force improved dramatically once the Indians became involved in the inter-Afghan conflict," argued Hafizullah.

Moonis and Hamid, both unmarried, said they were unable to bring their aircraft along while defecting as the life of their family members who were required to live in Bagram was in danger. They said both of them escaped to Charasyab, which at that time was being held by Hekmatyar and later traveled to Peshawar. "Our families also joined us in Peshawar and were later flown to Sheberghan in a special plane sent by Dostam," they narrated. Both said they were now flying planes for Dostam's air force. They felt their life was much better in Sherghan than in Kabul and Bagram as northern Afghanistan under Dostam was more berghan than in Kabul and Bagram as northern Afghanistan under Dostam was more peaceful and liberal than areas controlled by Rabbani-Mas'ud combine.

The two pilots said they were in possession of a picture of Hindu technicians in Bagram which they took secretly. They said the Rabbani regime had about

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eight jet-fighters and half dozen helicopters in working condition before the arrival of Indian technicians but now more and planes have been made airborne and operational by the Indians.

They and their commander Hafizullah alleged that Rabbani's airforce chief, Dooran [name as published], was flown to India for medical treatment and so were his pilots. They also accused France of extending military support to Rabbani-Mas'ud. In this context, they cited the radar in Nahrin in Baghlan province which was allegedly supplied by the French. "The presence of French military advisers to Mas'ud is an open secret as they could be seen even in war videos prepared during the 'jehad'", they argued. They pointed out that both India and Afghanistan had bought military equipment from Russia and thus New Delhi could provide spareparts and technical expertise to Kabul to upgrade its air force.

The Taleban, Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) and other opponents of Rabbani have suffered at the hands of Kabul's air force. In fact, the Taleban advance on Kabul and Shindand air base near Herat was halted primarily by Rabbani's air force, which enjoyed superiority in the skies. Military experts opined that the air force had played a crucial role in tilting the military balance in favour of Rabbani government in the recent battles.

Daily Warns of Afghanistan's 'Indian Connection'

BK0908081595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Kabul's Indian Connection"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Among issues brought to the fore during Sardar Asif Ali's visit to Afghanistan and duly taken note of by him is the Kabul regime's Indian connection. While the Pakistani delegation was in Qandahar, it was shown the giant Russian-made transport plane forced to land by the Taleban a couple of days earlier, which was carrying arms for the Kabul government. Its Russian pilot, who had refused to land at Qandahar for inspection of cargo until threatened with being fired at, claimed he had flown from Albania. But Taleban sources said the plane had stopped over in India, from where the arms supplies were sent. Whether or not this particular plane was carrying Indian arms is not known but there have been confirmed reports of New Delhi arms aid to the Kabul government. In Mazar-e Sharif General Dostam, who spoke to Pakistani journalists following extensive talks with Sardar Asif, condemned "Indian interference in Afghan affairs." The Indians were reported to have been trying to act as mediators between Dostam and Rabbani and seeking to open a consulate in Mazar-e Sharif. Sardar Asif Ali's mission to Afghanistan must have provided an opportunity to the Pakistani delegation to learn from the horse's mouth about New Delhi's moves to penetrate various centres of power in Afghanistan and the degree of success it has achieved in establishing a rapport with principal actors on the Afghan political scene by selling its package of economic and technical assistance. So far India's "prize catch" has been to secure a significant clout in the Ahmad Shah Mas'ud camp, and thus regain a measure of foothold in Afghan affairs.

Ironically, the Indians were the Soviet Union's closest allies when Afghanistan was invaded and a puppet regime installed in Kabul. And while the Afghan mojahedin, who the Indians are now trying to cultivate, were fighting a war of liberation with Pakistan being a front line supporter of their cause, New Delhi was a friend and ally the communists could count on for political and diplomatic assistance. Now withstanding the compulsion of circumstance which has deferred Pakistan from playing as effective a role in Afghanistan's peacemaking and reconstruction as it ought to have in the wake of its unparalleled contribution to Afghan freedom, Islamabad can ill-afford to let the Indians step in to make mileage out of the vacuum created by Pakistan's "hands-off" policy. Pakistan should strictly adhere to its declared policy of not playing any favorites in Afghanistan's power struggle, and while lending support to all initiatives for a negotiated settlement, should ensure its meaningful presence in parallel centres of power, more so in Kabul, regardless of Rabbani and company's dubious dealings. In order to counter the growing Indian influence, an all-out campaign should be launched to reinforce Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan's economic reconstruction, apart from offering good offices to mediate among all warring factions without being seen as having a tilt towards one or the other. Perhaps the lesson the Foreign Office needs to learn from reports of Indian inroads is to acquire sufficient sophisticated diplomatic skills to be able to maintain equidistance from all the Afghan warlords without compromising the ultimate objective of creating a lawful and truly representative central authority in Kabul.

Daily Details Minister's Remarks on Afghan Visit

BK1008112695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Aug 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) — Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to the formation of a joint commission related to many a subjects of mutual interest, said Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali here Wednesday [9 August].

"The joint commission will take up bilateral matters regarding fields of economics, communications, educa-

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tion, culture and social interaction," he said, soon after his arrival from a week long visit to major cities of Afghanistan.

This was the first visit of a Pakistani foreign minister to five main cities of the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

He said, President Rabbani wanted to have a joint commission (JC) on security and political issues, but we asked him to have a general one related to wide range of fields, to which he agreed.

"It was a goodwill visit showing Pakistan's deep and abiding interest in the welfare of the people of Afghanistan, Asif said. "The visit also sought to revive contacts with the Afghan leaders and learn about the peace, progress and to assesses how the Afghans view the various peace proposals."

Pakistan, he said, did not go with a peace plan of its own. "We encourage and support the peace plans of the United Nations and Organisation of Islamic Countries."

However the onus of bringing peace in Afghanistan rests on its people, he added. Sardar Asif said, "Pakistan believes that there has to be solution to the Afghan problem."

Pakistan refuses to become a party to the internal differences of Afghanistan and it is of abiding interest to have peace in Afghanistan. "Pakistan stands by its policy of complete neutrality."

Sardar Asif said his visit helped to dispel a number of misconceptions about Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan.

During his talks with the Afghan leadership, the Foreign Minister said, "We had frank and candid discussion which helped in dispelling many a doubts."

"We told the Afghan leaders that we do not believe in interference. There were no proofs and we clarified our position."

Sardar Asif said Pakistan also had its doubts and we wanted to know about the shift in Afghanistan's policy on Kashmir. The Afghan government did not openly condemn the burning of Charar Sharif. Pakistan also expressed deep concern over the continued fighting in Afghanistan.

However the Rabbani government dispelled Pakistan's concerns and reiterated Afghanistan's commitment to the self-determination of Kashmiris.

He said, we made it to the Afghan leaders that they should not make Pakistan a party to Afghanistan's internal problems. "We also categorically stated that Pakistan has no favourites and was not launching any body.

"We have a policy of neutrality and friendship with all the leaders," he added.

Referring to the recent visit of Sardar Wali, he said, he was extended a visa allowed to visit Pakistan as a courtesy. "More than that is not our business" he added.

If Zaher Shah wants to visit he can do it, but it does not mean that we are supporting him.

When asked whether Pakistan recognised the Afghan government, he said, "the matter of legality of Afghan government is for the Afghan government to decide. We are doing normal business with the government of Professor Rabbani."

To a query about his meetings with the leaders of Afghan government and its opponents the Foreign Minister said the programme was cleared by both the governments and the visit was undertaken with their consent.

He said his talks with Gen. Rashid Dostam were warm and cordial and they clearly gave the impression that they were friends of Pakistan.

Asif said, he could not meet Golboddin Hekmatyar as he was visiting some other country.

He said though a lot of propaganda has been launched against Pak- Afghan relations but the fact is that in the streets and road of Afghanistan, people still show love and affection towards the people of Pakistan.

Asked if there were any chances of disintegration of Afghanistan in the wake of continuing war, he denied the impression adding that despite the numerous ethnic groups they are staunchly Afghans. "An Afghan is an Afghan and feels immense pride in it."

He said the issue of Afghan Transit Trade also cropped up and we told them that Pakistan had already sent a draft a new agreement to the Afghan government in March 1995, after the expiry of earlier one, but has not yet received any reply. He said, the Afghan government was also approached to expedite the issue.

A four-nation conference will be held here to improve the communications network through overland linkages between Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told a news conference on Wednesday that the conference to be attended by the foreign ministers and ministers of communications of the four countries will discuss ways and means to improve the road network between the states.

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He said proposed dates will soon be given to the participating countries.

Afghanistan will also host a conference of Turkmenistan and Pakistan in Kabul soon to finalise the draft agreement for laying of a gas pipelines from Turkmenistan to Pakistan. The gas line will pass through Afghanistan.

PPI adds: Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has assured Pakistan that in future there would be no Indian interference in Kabul, Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Amhad Ali said on Wednesday.

Editorial Views Minister's Visit

BK1008112995 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "First catch the rabbit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An old cookery book, before it gave its recipe for a rabbit stew, gave this instruction: 'first catch your rabbit' which as we all know is easier said than done, the rabbit being a cunning creature and swift enough to evade its hunters It is axiomatic that before Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali can catch his Afghanistan trade routes between Central Asia and Pakistan, he must first have an Afghanistan ruled by one stable government whose writ runs throughout the country to ensure the safe passage of goods to and from Pakistan. Without this prime requisite there is no use negotiating with any one of the many war-lords. Pakistan has much experience of dealing with tribal people in areas where we have ongoing development projects be they roads, dams or gas pipelines or power or telephone transmission lines. We know how the tribesmen demand all kinds of fees for permission to use their neighbourhood for development purposes. Even when they are paid all they ask for, some other tribesmen who are not directly involved, jump in and make their own exorbitant demands and threaten armed intervention if their demands are not met. This could happen in Afghanistan on a much larger scale and endanger all the investment made in roads, pipelines and other infrastructure.

A government in Kabul that has the support of all the factions and groups of the Mujahideen who are now striving for power in Afghanistan is still far away and there is no indication that any such government can be formed in the near future. It is, therefore, futile for Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali to go on chasing shadows and fishing in troubled waters of that land. He should be content with the excellent publicity provided by the PTV [Pakistan Television] nowadays managed by the good wife of his Foreign Secretary. With a combination like that, the Sardar should not want any real achievement. Whatever he does we are sure that his Foreign Secretary's wife will see to it that he figures as a conquering hero in all his foreign trips and in all his dealings with all kinds of foreign visitors. This should be enough for him. Let him dream about his Central Asian trade routes, and let him make any number of blueprints of roads and gas and power transmission lines through Afghanistan and let him get his staff to draft any number of treaties, agreements, with any number of possible Afghan governments in Kabul, governments that are credible and stable and which can be depended upon to deliver. He can then sit and twiddle his thumbs and wait for a real government in Kabul to emerge. When that most devout wish of his materialises, he can instantly bring out his blueprints and draft agreements and get going on his pet schemes. Till that happens we advise him to possess his soul in peace and keep a low profile in Pakistan even when the PTV is more than willing to oblige. The joint communique issued after the visit of our Foreign Minister to Afghanistan states that Pakistan desires an early and peaceful settlement in Afghanistan according to the wishes of the people.

The Afghan government in Kabul, it is reported, has agreed to set up a joint commission to work out details of how business is to be conducted between the two countries. This seems a welcome development if it were not for the statement that Kabul treats India as a neighbour with whom it has very good relations and wants to improve relations with Pakistan. The implication is clear that President Rabbani considers relations with India already cordial, a model for cooperation with Pakistan. When a Taleban plane forced down an Afghan plane, it was discovered that it was carrying arms from India to Kabul. The hostile attitude of the Taleban to the Kabul regime which is characterised by them as a 'gang or group of tyrants and not the legitimate government of Afghanistan.' The Taleban feel, they have a religious duty to remove the Rabbani regime and replace it with an Islamic government. Now, after what has been billed as a successful visit to Kabul, our Foreign Minister has gone to meet the Taleban. We fear that our Foreign Minister is only hallucinating that his visits to Afghanistan are making headway. Rabbani accuses Pakistan of sponsoring the Taleban and our Sardar's visit to the Taleban is unlikely to persuade him to think otherwise. It seems to have escaped his attention that some of our foreign rivals for Afghan goodwill have advanced their interest through inaction. In certain situations overt inaction can be more potent than hopping around.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali is a harmless minister and we would not like him to burn his fingers when he dabbles in the affairs of our Afghan neighbours. He should put funds at the disposal of the Pakistan Institute for Central Asian Studies and if possible become the patron of this

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body. This will enable him to do some useful work which may come in handy when sense finally dawns upon the Afghans and they manage to cobble together a stable government in Kabul.

Daily Views President's Warning on Indian Threat

BK1008095095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Aug 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Across the border threat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Addressing a troops darbar [meeting], President Farooq Leghari has cautioned against the possibility of "India going on some misadventure against Pakistan". We must be prepared to face such an eventuality, he said. Referring to India's formidable war machine, the president talked about millions of rupees being spent on procuring arms, stockpiling of modern weapons and deployment of missiles on our borders which, he said, were designed to accelerate India's hegemonistic posture in the region. We want peace in the region, the President said, and are keen to spend maximum of our resources on the welfare of our people, but the confrontation scenario leaves no choice for Pakistan except to "reconsider its defence requirements". The President was by no means trying to ring alarm bells about India's 'war phobia', but his concern that New Delhi, frustrated by its abject failure to suppress the resistance movement in Occupied Kashmir, may choose to make some kind of show of force against Pakistan was a timely warning. And his assurance that the government and the people were ready to make all sacrifices to maintain the country's integrity, solidarity and independence was the only appropriate thing to say in a gathering of army jawans [soldiers], assigned to defend the national frontiers. Nonetheless, the question of perennial threat from across the border which may at any time assume an alarming proportion, calls for a more comprehensive response than defence preparedness. While it is an imperative of our national security requirements to spend as much as we can afford on defence, procure modern, sophisticated weapons from wherever we can find them, and keep our armed forces in a state of red alert, it would not be enough to meet the challenge of external aggression, overt or by remote control, if the country presents the spectacle of a house divided against itself.

So long as a no-holds-barred contention for political power is being waged in the country, the state apparatus is being used to witch-hunt political opponents rather than ensuring peace and security to the citizens, and the people are becoming increasingly sceptical about the ability of their national leaders to deliver the goods, the country would be hopelessly lacking in the will to make a national endeavour to back up the fighting forces. The Karachi situation is a case in hand, an apt illustration of the breakdown of the law and order machinery, while enemy agents are having a field day, primarily because the people have been alienated, and issues of political discord are being sorted out at gunpoint instead of holding a meaningful dialogue. If the Indians were to intensify their acts of hostility it may not necessarily mean that they would invade Pakistan. Subversion and sabotage would perhaps be more handy, given the chaotic state of law and order in the country, and the facility with which enemy agents can infiltrate and carry out missions of formenting ethnic or sectarian violence. Unfortunately, power struggle has been taken to such ridiculous proportions that law-enforcing agencies are preoccupied in point-scoring tasks, trying to curry favour with those who hold the strings of patronage, rather than serving the people and going an extra mile to salvage the rule of law. If we are genuinely anxious to rise to the occasion and get ready to face up to the challenge of Indian hostility, we must begin by setting our political house in order, seek reconciliation among rival contenders for power, and secure consensus on national issues related to the country's security by delinking them from partisan politics.

Hong Kong Firm To Build $1.5 Billion Power Project

BK0808143795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Hong Kong-based company, the Consolidated Electric Power Asia, has signed an agreement with Pakistan and deposited a guarantee of 300 million rupees to build a 1,320 megawatt power project at Keti Bandar. The project will cost $1.5 billion. This was stated by the director general of Sindh Coal Authority in Karachi today. The company has already signed a memorandum of understanding with Pakistan to build a $1 billion deep sea port at the site.

Sri Lanka

Minister Briefs Officials on Government Proposals

BK1008115095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of justice and constitutional affairs, Professor G.L. Peiris, yesterday briefed Colombo-based heads of diplomatic missions on the government's devolution proposals. The briefing which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was steered by Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar. Professor Peiris pointed out that while previous governments had made efforts to arrange for discussions between parties on the ethnic issue, the People's

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Alliance has chosen to play a leadership role in this regard by placing its proposals on the table to provide a basis for negotiation. He noted that while the government's proposals had several fresh elements in it, it also incorporated the consensus reached between various political groups at different stages — first by the Democratic People's Alliance in 1988 and later report of the Mangala Munasinghe Committee. He observed that the points of divergence were also not very great between the present proposals and those put forward by the UNP's [United National Party's] candidate for the presidential election Gamini Dissanayake. He said that the government's proposals went beyond, not merely finding a solution of the ethnic problem but must also be seen as a means of increasing participatory democracy and providing the opportunity for the development of future political leaders in the region.

Minister Peiris said that the government intended to have the draft constitutional amendment, which seeks to give effect to the proposals to devolve to regional councils, ready by the end of the next week. It is likely that negotiations on these proposals could commence within the parliamentary select committee on constitutional reforms in the first week in September.

Pointing out that the support of opposition parties would be necessary to carry these proposals through, Professor Peiris said that the final draft that would go before the parliament will be worked out only after all political parties have had the opportunity of reacting to these proposals in the select committee. He said the government had no intention of sending these proposals to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] who had turned their back on numerous opportunities to resolve the problem in a more conducive atmosphere.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar observed that the government was deeply appreciative of the warm support they have received from the international community over the past year in office. He said in the coming months too, the government was confident that it could count on the support and understanding of the international community as it seeks to guide this process to a successful conclusion. Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister D.P. Wickremasinghe and Foreign Secretary R.C.A. Vendergert also attended the briefing.

'Sources': Tigers Reject Government Peace Plan

BK1008132595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 10 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group has rejected a government peace plan aimed at ending the island's protracted ethnic war, Tamil sources here said Thursday [10 August].

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) held meetings in areas under their control to urge the Tamil civilians not to support Colombo's political package, the sources said.

They quoted Tamil civilians travelling from LTTE-held areas as saying the guerrillas had described as traitors the moderate Tamil politicians who are supporting the plan which seeks to grant greater autonomy to minorities.

The LTTE which is fighting for an independent homeland in the island's northeast has rejected all previous attempts to political resolve the conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

UNP Reaffirms Support for Political Solution

BK1008123495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United National Party [UNP] has reaffirmed its commitment to a political solution of the northeast problem which satisfies the aspirations of all parties concerned. The working committee resolved to support the principle of devolution. However, it reiterated that all necessary constitutional guarantees should be incorporated to ensure that the devolution does not lead to the separatist and divisive developments. It has also resolved to move appropriate amendments to the draft legislation of the select committee on constitutional reforms. This should be done in keeping with the policies and positions of the parties, ensuring the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The working committee also resolved that the UNP leadership should embark on a process of constitutional dialogue with all political parties, religious dignitaries and all other groups who are interested in the question of devolution with a view to locating a broad consensus on this important national issue. The party leader Ranil Wickremasinghe presided at the meeting. He briefed the committee regarding the discussions the UNP delegation had with the president to discuss the devolution proposals.

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